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TO MR. CLINE.

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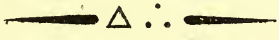
HENRY CLINE, ESQ.

ON

Imperfect Developements of the Faculties, Mental and Moral, as well as Constitutional and Organic; and on the Treatment of Impediments of Speech.

BY JOHN THELWALL, ESQ.

PROFESSOR OF THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF ELOCUTION.



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TO HENRY CLINE, ESQ.

Dear Sir,

The subject to which I am desirous of drawing your attention by this address, is not one that has only recently or transiently occupied my own. The foundations of my system were laid, many years ago, when your kindness offered me the opportunity (not usually enjoyed by any but the professed students of medicine) of attaining, under your instructions at St. Thomas's, some knowledge of the Science of Anatomy; and when the same indulgence was extended to me by Dr. Haighton, then lecturing on Physiology at the neighbouring Hospital of Guys.

I did not, indeed, at that time, perceive all the applications that might be made of the facts and principles illustrated; or suspect that I was studying Elocution, while witnessing the demonstrations and experiments of the Medical Theatre. But the

objects impressed upon my mind, and the conversations I occasionally enjoyed, with several of those students whose early promise was, even then, apparent, and who have since (by treading in the paths of their enlightened preceptor) risen to the most respectable rank in their profession, gave me an early habit of thinking and of reasoning physiologically: and the advantages thence derived, in what I may venture to call *the New Profession,* to which I have devoted my maturer years, have been felt, I believe, in no inconsiderable degree. They will be felt, I believe, through a much more extensive circle, whenever the general attention shall be properly directed to the nature and application of those discoveries to which that habit has, at length, conducted.

Unfortunately, for me, at least, the calmness of physiological disquisition did not, in the first instance, long continue uninterrupted. The excentric fire of youth hurried me away to other topics; with an impetuosity, which maturer judgement may regret, though integrity cannot repent of the principle. But the elements of physical science, tho bedimmed, awhile, by the more ardent rays of popular enthusiasm, were not extinguished: and, when

events (bitter, for awhile, to the feelings, tho ultimately, perhaps, not unfavourable to the proper direction of the mental powers)—drove me into temporary retirement, former trains of reflection were gradually renewed; and the treasured remembrances of anatomical and physiological facts, mingling with the impressions that had resulted from the oratorical habits of twelve preceding years, and the yet unquenchable devotion to poetical composition (the only solace of my retreat!), led me, if I mistake not, to the developement of some of the most hidden mysteries of the Science of Human Speech. In short, my dear Sir, from the accidental association of this mass of diversified, and (as it might, perhaps, at first appear) incongruous impressions,—I was led (in the hour of inductive meditation) to the detection of those elementary principles, out of which arise—the facilities and harmonies of oral utterance: principles! from the neglect, the violation, or the ignorance of which, result almost all the complicated varieties of difficulty, obstruction and imperfection, in the exercise of that faculty; and which constitute, also, (for composition and utterance are referable to the same principles of physical expediency) the

natural and universal bases of the rhythmus, the euphony, and the melody of language:—principles! which may, therefore, at the same time, loose the tongue of the stammerer, and enable the literary student to command, and the critic to comprehend, with certainty, the genuine sources of grace and mellifluence—

> "Untwisting all the chains that ty
> "The hidden soul of Harmony."

I will not detain you, Sir, (however interesting, to me, may be the remembrance,) with a detail of the meditations or the feelings of that night, when (cheering the solitude of my rustic hearth—sometimes resounding, and sometimes silently analysing, the exquisite verses at the commencement of Dryden's translation of the Æneïd) the first glimpse of this subject seemed to burst upon me:—when, comparing those verses with some criticisms, in which (with the most strange and illiberal affectation) that great master of mellifluous rhythmus prides himself as enveloping in eternal mystery the secret of his versification, I persuaded myself—that I had discovered, not only the critical nature of that secret, but (what was perhaps more than Dry-

den himself had comprehended) the physical principles upon which the critical application of his secret, in reality, depended. But, tho the particulars of such a detail might be foreign to my present purpose, it will not, I hope, be deemed impertinent—thus generally to mention the peculiar circumstances under which my first discoveries were made:—discoveries, which, amid the researches and experimental exertions of ten successive years, have led me, step by step, to those systematic efforts for the developement of apparently defective faculties, to which (under the sanction of your respected name) I am desirous of calling the attention of the professional and scientific world.

It was, then, Sir,—with the pen in my hand, preparing for the execution of a long-meditated poetical project,—It was, while comparing, and dissecting, the different effects, and different principles of versification, in those great masters of the epic lyre, our Dryden and our Milton,—for the purpose of ascertaining and methodizing the particular rhythmus I should myself adopt, in the composition of that meditated work,—that I discovered, or thought I discovered,—in the anatomical structure of the organs of speech, and in

the laws of physical necessity, under which those organs act,—the efficient sources of the melody of language; and (by retroactive inference) the sources and appropriate remedies of lingual defects. In this structure, and in these laws, I imagined, also, —that I discovered, (and I have since been satisfied that I did discover) the causes why certain combinations and successions of sound, that baffle all the discriminations of mere grammatical analysis, and all ascertainment from the *customary* rules of quantity, should produce an agreeable impression,— while others, equally undefinable, by the ordinary dogmas of criticism, should be productive of a discordant effect, upon the ear; and why certain modes of effort, in the pronunciation of speech, should give smoothness and facility to the flow of spoken language; while other modes of effort were necessarily productive of dissonance and disgust, and were readily aggravated into absolute Hesitation and Impediment. From the want of knowledge of these principles I believe it is, that so little has been done, with any certainty, towards an effective remedy of the defects of utterance; and, from the same cause,—in conjunction with the habits of silent study, and silent composition, to which

the literati of modern times (who know their own language only by the eye) are almost universally devoted,—perhaps, it is, that so little improvement is made in the harmonic structure of our language. Hence it is—that so many copies of verses, that look smooth and pretty upon paper, are yet revolting to the ear; and so many elaborate compositions, over which the giant scholars of the day have bent with self-complacency, discourage, by their ear-cracking harshness, every attempt of the reader to give them vocal utterance. Hence too, perhaps, we may be enabled to explain—why the verses of Dryden and Milton will frequently gain so much by the process of vocal utterance,—when the reader knows how to deliver them; while those of Pope (especially if they are delivered according to his own principles, as laid down in the Essay on Criticism) are sure to be equal losers, when submitted to the same experiment.

Excuse me, Sir, if, with the feelings of a poet, I dwell, awhile, on the mere literary consequences of my discovery; since they were, in fact, the first immediate objects of meditation, and furnished the food of critical gratulation, before the

more important inference of the practical applicability of the sympathy between the perceptive and executive organs, and the consequent operation of the system of musical proportions, under judicious management, occurred, with all its inestimable consequences, to my mind.

With respect to Milton, in particular,—and may not a similar observation, with equal probability, be applied to Homer?—it is not unlikely that the blindness of the poet (which necessitated him to compose his verses orally,—or, at least, to recite what he had composed, before they could be transcribed)—might have given an increased portion of that strength, that natural and copious melody, and that variety, to the rhythmus and numbers of his divine poem, which (even if it had no other excellence) would place the Paradise Lost in merited supereminence above every other composition in the English language. Certain it is, that, if the finger-counting critics of our immortal bard had studied the physiological principles of human utterance, instead of seeking for the rules of criticism in their enumeration table, many of those lines which have been condemned as lame and prosaic, would have been extolled as among the

most complete and expressive in his poem; and scarcely a discord would have been found in this transcendent series of upwards of ten thousand verses, that was not obviously designed, and for an obvious reason.

But it is not alone to the structure of a verse, or the composition of a period, that the physiological analysis of rhythmus and euphony will be found to apply: nor upon such bases do I rest my claims to the attention I solicit. This might, indeed, be something in critical estimation; but, if this were all, Elocution must still be left in the rank of mere accomplishments; and the explanation of her principles could not be regarded as conferring any essential and permanent benefit on mankind. But, if Science and Utility come, hand in hand, with the Graces and the Arts, and Hygeia tread the paths that Eloquence has strewn,—if the enfranchisement of fettered organs, the supply of organic deficiencies, or the substitution of the action of other organs in their place,—if the developement and melioration of dormant faculties, be consequences of the discovery, and health (even in many of those cases where popular prejudice would least

expect) should be found improvable, by the very means that give grace, impressiveness, and harmony to rhetorical delivery ;—the medical man and the philanthropist will not be insensible to the value of this new science ; and there are thousands, who may be expected to feel a personal interest in its diffusion.

I did not, indeed, in the first instance, see so far into the practical inferences of my principles, as to form any settled design of making the Cure of Impediments of Speech a consequent profession. Yet I could not but observe and feel, how much the principle of physiological rhythmus, and the conformity of the volition with its dictates, mitigated the labour of pectoral exertion, and contributed to a healthful and agreeable action of the lungs, during the time of elocutionary exertion ; and it was impossible to be long blind to the conviction—that a knowledge of the structure and offices of the organs of utterance, and the laws and necessities of organic action, while it explained, by analysis, the philosophical principles of lingual harmony, must, synthetically applied, be the best guide to the rectification of those ill habits, and the supply of those organic imperfections, upon

which the various classes of such Impediments must obviously depend. The mind thus prepared,—a casual experiment became the germ of that project I have since, by laborious cultivation, matured.

A hatter, in Brecknock, into whose shop I had occasion to go, having heard that I had been an orator, and probably believing (for such was the superstition of that enlightened neighbourhood) that I was a bit of a conjuror, also,—thought me a proper person, to whom to prefer his piteous complaint, of an affliction that visited his family. "He had two as fine boys as ever eyes were clapped on; but their mouths were not made like other people's mouths: they could not speak." I went, accordingly, into the little parlour behind his shop; and the boys being brought to me, after listening awhile to their strange and unintelligible jargon, I proceeded to examine their mouths. Their defects were what I should now call *purely enunciative:* having no mixture of any of the several species of stammering, stuttering, throttling, or suppression of the voice; but consisting in a sort of hideous obscurity of elementary sound. They were, therefore, such as seemed to indicate an imperfec

structure of the organs of the mouth. Yet the jaw was well shaped, and well hung; and the lips were perfect. The tongue was evidently not too much restricted by the frænum, nor had it been set too much at liberty (a circumstance from which one species of impediment not unfrequently arises) by the officious scissors of the nurse. The upper part of the inner mouth exhibited, indeed, some degree of deformity; which had principally arisen out of the neglected state of the teeth—though not exclusively, for the roof, of one of them, at least, was remarkably high and conical. But there was nothing in the appearance of either sufficient to account for the defect. I pronounced, therefore, without hesitation, that their Impediments were merely the offspring of habit and inattention; and, on setting them to read, and marking the elements in which they were most defective, I soon perceived—that the whole chaos of their speech (for such it very nearly was) consisted in the absolute deficiency of one elementary sound, and the imperfection and confused misapplication of two or three more.

My first care, therefore, was to demonstrate to them the positions and actions of the organs by

which the imperfect elements were to be formed; which I did with such mixture of grimace and buffoonery, as I thought most likely to impress their rude imaginations. I then gave them, as an exercise, a sentence in which those elements were assembled and reiterated. This I made them repeat after me, again and again, till the imitation was tolerably perfect; and bade them remember it, and repeat it to each other.

This was the only lesson I ever gave to these my first pupils. It was the only one they wanted—for they remembered my injunction. The ridiculous rumble of the passage pleased them. It became their constant may-game; and, up-stairs and down, through the street, or across the fields, it was eternally shouted forth. The next time I went from my farm to my market town, I found these boys, "whose mouths were not formed like other people's," speaking, nevertheless, as intelligibly, as any of the half Welchified, half Anglicized people of that part of the country.

This solitary experiment, though it might have shewn me—that my powers of utility were not all extinct, produced, at the time, no change in my views or my pursuits: I ne d not explain to you,

my dear Sir, (who know the afflictions under which I then laboured, and the dejection of mind they had produced) why it was not likely—that, at that time, it should. The spirit was broken; the bow had lost its elasticity; it seemed as if its spring was snapped, and it was never to rebound again. A principle was discovered, capable of the most extensive application, and its practical consequences were, in part, demonstrated; but the mind was not collected enough to estimate its new treasure, and had not energy to make use of it, either for personal advantage, or for the benefit of others. But sufferance was, at length, exhausted; and, weary of solitude and barbarism, and disgusted with a sordid and profitless occupation, I resolved, once again, to exchange the field of Ceres, for the garden of the Muses. Then it was, that, issuing forth from my retreat, resolved to confront the prejudices of the world, to see and to be seen again, in my proper character, and assert my title to the exercise and the enjoyment of my intellectual utilities,—Then it was, that my eyes began to open to a sense of the importance of that connection I had discovered, between Physiological and Elocutionary Science.

Towards the latter end of the year 1801, I happened to be visiting a professional friend, at Manchester. It was on the very day, when the news arrived of the preliminaries being signed for that short peace, which tranquillized, for awhile, the passions of Europe;—which gave to all parties, in this country, time to recover a portion, at least, of their bewildered senses, and to turn some part of their energies, from the brutal contentions of prejudice, and the calumnies of misrepresentation, to the humanizing pursuits of Intellect and Science. My friend was himself a man of a scientific research: —self-educated and self-raised: and, though his personal utilities are now, unfortunately, extinguished, he had a mind of that communicable energy, which can seldom fail (derivatively, or collaterally, at least) of conferring essential and permanent advantages on mankind. By this friend, a copy was put into my hand of the advertisement of a Course of Lectures on Elocution,—which the Rev. Charles Vincent had been recently delivering in that town. "I have reserved this, on purpose, against I saw thee," said he, in the characteristic language of the respectable society to which he belonged. "Thou must give Lectures on Elocu-

tion. It will put money in thy pocket, and make thee comfortable again."

He was little aware what a string he had touched. The subject burst upon me, at once, in a flood of light; in all its novelty, and all its extent of application; and, my friend, having succeeded in talking me, once more, into some confidence with myself, I resolved—not, indeed, to follow the steps of Mr. Vincent, and amuse a few provincial towns with the temporary expedient of a Course of Readings; but (adopting the *title*, only, of his Lectures) to commence, at once, a series of theoretical and practical disquisition, that might lay the solid foundations of a permanent and useful profession.

This is no place to speak of the difficulties that obstructed the early progress of my design: the prejudices I had to encounter; the hostilities I had to defeat. One unmanly and disgraceful conspiracy, it became necessary to expose to public indignation: for it left me no alternative—but the bitterness of a personal controversy, or the total abandonment of my project. I was obliged, indeed, to fight my enemies upon their own ground: —an embattled and organized host!—myself a

solitary stranger. I did fight, however: What could I less? My Family and my Science were at stake. I fought, and I triumphed: and I will have the charity to believe—that, by this time, my antagonists, themselves, are more ashamed of their contest, than of their defeat. But when my Institution shall have diffused, with more extensive operation, those advantages (already felt by many an individual) which, again, I venture to prognosticate—a more general attention to the principles upon which it is founded, and a consequent conviction of their solidity, cannot fail to secure, —it may be interesting to be informed, how much of stern determination, of anxious conflict, and untameable resolution it required, to obtain a hearing for that science, and to vindicate the right of diffusing those principles, that were to give to the Mute, and to the convulsive Stammerer, the free exercise and enjoyment of a faculty, which constitutes the essential attribute of our species. On the present occasion, such particulars would lead into a length of unnecessary digression. I should even be, already, fearful—that you might accuse me of indulging too far in the garrulity of mere narration, if it did not appear—that the

readiest way of introducing to your consideration the principles I wish to establish, is to relate, as they occurred, the circumstances that led to their developement, or assisted in their demonstration.

In November, 1801, I commenced my career, as a public Lecturer, in the town of Sheffield, where the general outline of my principles was first promulgated; and, in the ensuing month, (while I was repeating my Lectures, in the town of Leeds) those principles were brought to the test of a first regular experiment; not, indeed, in the treatment of a case of actual impediment, but in the removal of an offensive peculiarity of tone,—the mingled effect of original provincialism, and of an ill habit of reading, contracted at a seminary of the first respectability, in the neighbourhood of the metropolis.

My pupils were sons of a respectable merchant in Leeds:—intelligent, zealous and acute; and my success was so rapid, that I forbear to enter into particulars, lest others should expect, as a matter of course, that celerity of attainment, which is only to be secured by minds previously prepared by high intellectual attainments, and the mingled

advantages of the most favourable dispositions, the most lively perceptions, and the most diligent application.

In York, and in Hull, my experiments (public and private) were next, successively, tried,—with results that were highly gratifying. The intervals of professional exertion were filled up by the elaborate investigation of every part of my subject; by rigid self-examination and analysis; by bringing every definition to the severest test of practical illustration, and the consequent progressive developement of my plan.

At the former of these places, I procured the mechanical assistance necessary for the complete removal of a slight impediment (a lisp)—to which I had, myself, been always subject, from the imperfection and irregular position of my teeth. The operator, I applied to, was the ingenious Mr. Hornor, of York; whose patient attention to every circumstance pointed out to him, as essential to my object, and whose happy execution, in all particulars that were to secure the effect desired, in the artificial teeth he framed for me, on that occasion, leaves me to lament the distance that divides me from so able an artist, to whose cooperation, under

similar circumstances, I could, with confident satisfaction, upon all occasions, refer.

If, in York, I had the advantage of meeting with an excellent operator; in Hull, it was no less my good fortune to become acquainted with the only book from which I have derived any essential assistance, in the improvement of my system:—a book, which, in addition to its intrinsic merit, had the recommendation of confirming the truth of that system, in a way that was little to have been expected.

Hitherto, my researches into the phænomena and rhythmus of spoken language, had been purely physiological. Of music, my knowledge may be said—to have been merely perceptive. In my boyhood, indeed, I had just learned the notes, and made a brief experiment upon the flute: but I soon found—that I had neither *time* nor *lungs* for such an accomplishment; and the *language* of the Muses, appearing to me more estimable than their *tones*, I soon came to the resolution, of giving to poetry all the time I could spare from my then intended profession of the law; and of studying no more of music, than could be caught up, by hovering over the pianoforte of a lady, in the hour of social relaxation,

or listening occasionally to the instrument of a professional performer. The impressions thus imbibed, had, however, been sufficient to convince me (in the hour of recollection, and during the process of comparative analysis)—that speech was, also, a musical science: or, at least,—that the measure of music, and that of speech, had originated in the same principles of organic nature: the latter, from an impulse of physical necessity; the former, from a no less natural impulse of imitative accommodation: and when, after having partly matured my own system, and brought its essential principles to the test of practical application, I began to look into the theories of others, and glean what was to be collected, of the opinions of the Ancients (the Greeks, in particular,—who seem, of all nations, best to have understood this subject) I met with abundant proofs—that the great orators and celebrated teachers of those elder times, had been of the same opinion: Music and Grammar having been, by them, regarded as sciences so intimately connected, that the venerated character of the grammarian (how different from the grammarian of modern days!) always included that of the musician, also.——Let me premise, however, at

the same time, (that we may avoid mistakes)—that I most assuredly did not find, during that research, any, the least foundation, for the strange and heterogeneous solecism of modern critics and professors, that there was, among the ancients, any confusion, between the tones and process of the voice, in speaking and in song:—that the declamation of the Greeks "was more upon a crying or singing tone;" or, in other words, that Demosthenes squeaked in recitativo, or whined out his Philippics in the strain of conventicle enthusiasm.

While I was vindicating, in private society, the doctrines resulting from this examination, a clergyman of Hull, to whom I had been introduced, took occasion to suggest, that "I had adopted the opinion of Mr. Joshua Steele, that the declamation of our stage, like that of the Ancients, might be accompanied by musical instruments."—To this he was not a little surprised, when he heard me reply—that, "perhaps, it was possible my principles might be pushed to that extent; tho, certainly, I should be very sorry to witness such a practical application of them; and that, with respect to any theory of Mr. Joshua Steele, I was so far from having

adopted any thing from him, that I had not, till that moment, ever heard his name."

Having obtained, from this gentleman, the perusal, and, afterwards, procured a copy of the book (the "Prosodia Rationalis") I was exceedingly interested in perceiving the musical part of my theory completely demonstrated, and a system of notation, for the tones, the qualities, and the proportions of sound, in spoken language, invented and applied. Mr. Steele was, obviously, unacquainted with every thing that relates to the physiology of speech: so much so, indeed, as to have referred that specific and fundamental difference in the qualities of syllables—(the Thesis △ and Arsis ∴) which results from the pure physical necessities of organic action, to voluntary taste and harmonic invention. He had, accordingly, prosecuted his researches on musical grounds exclusively; and it appeared, at first sight, not a little extraordinary, that we should, nevertheless, have been conducted, thro paths apparently so remote, to the same practical conclusions. The wonder ceases, however, if we admit (as, upon examination, I have no doubt we shall) that the principles of musical cadence and proportion, from which

Mr. Steele derives his arguments and his theory, were, in reality, themselves, adopted (not as has been fabled of old, from the alternate strokes of the larger and smaller hammer, upon the blacksmith's anvil) but from the *natural* thesis and arsis of the organ of primary impulse, in the production of the sounds of speech: or, indeed, from that universal principle of action and re-action, which forms the paramount law of all reiterated or progressive motion, organic or mechanical; from the throb and remission of the heart, to the progress of the quadruped or the reptile, and the sway of the common pendulum.

As the application of this physiological principle was what I principally depended upon, for the remedy of a very numerous class of Impediments;—or, rather, in the whole range of those several classes, which, without regard to the various organs affected, have usually been confounded, under the common names of stammering and stuttering, a work, that furnished me with new sources of demonstration and illustration, was, of course, regarded as an inestimable treasure: especially as thro the medium of that work, assisted by the perceptive knowledge I had already acquired, and

occasional conversation with musical men, it was obvious, I might attain almost all the insight into the Science of Music that was necessary for my particular purpose. But when I became more familiar with my author, I could not but feel both surprised and mortified, that so fine a specimen of analysis, employed upon so important a subject, should have excited so little curiosity, and have sunk so soon into an almost oblivious obscurity. The work has now, indeed, become scarce; (I have the gratification of having contributed to make it so!) but, at the time I am speaking of, it might have been found among old quarto psalmodies, in many a catalogue, marked with the humble price of two shillings, or half-a-crown; and I have since found—that if I had then been in town, and had happened to call at a certain book-shop, in Great Queen-street, I might have rescued some hundred copies, by weight, from the profane hand of a neighbouring cheesemonger.

The affectation of a Latin title, might, perhaps, have contributed, in some degree, to this neglect. The mere English student, might, perhaps, expect —that it was addressed, exclusively, to the classical scholar; or, perhaps, that it referred to the pro-

sody of the Classical languages; and the Classical scholar, when he opened it, and perceived that it related *only* to the English language, might throw it down, with contempt: for what interest does the Classical scholar take, in what relates to the principles of English Speech. It is, almost, the *only* language, of which the English gentleman considers it as no disgrace to be ignorant—or, at least, to have no other knowledge, than what he has acquired by careless and unconscious imitation.

"It is not a language: It is only a tongue!!!"

There is more sense, however, in this vulgar criticism, than the critics are generally aware of. For why should the Latin *Lingua,* be applied, as an appellation to *English* speech? Let them keep, if they please, to the pureism of their discrimination: but, whether language or tongue, it is that, by which the great business of life, in England, must be carried on:—by which, the English nation must be ruled, and English gentlemen are to make their way to professional consequence, or senatorial power: and when we see what great things have been done, by the few individuals who have taken pains, effectually, to manage that tongue!—when we have seen this mighty nation, wielded, almost des-

potically, for twenty years, by a flow of swelling periods, rendered impressive and captivating, by the force of a well-cultivated voice, and the harmony of a well-regulated cadence,—surely, we may expect—that, some time or other, the Measure and Melody of English Speech will be thought as worthy of comprehension and cultivation, as the Prosodies of Greek and Latin authors; and that it may, at least, be admitted to be as *inconvenient,* if not as *disgraceful,* for a British Orator not to be acquainted with the rhythmus of the Paradise Lost, as with that of the Iliad or the Ænëid.

But, if the illustration of our national Rhythmus, and the improvement of our national Oratory, had been my only objects, the fate of the "Prosodia Rationalis," might have taught me to despair; and I might have left our young candidates for professional and popular distinction, to follow, without further warning, Lord Montboddo's Drum, [*see Controversy with Steele.*—PROS. RAT.] and vociferate, in persevering and unimpressive monotony. But the physiological application of my principle revived my confidence. "Surely," said I, "tho senators, barristers, and divines, may be con-

tent to whine, and croak, and scream, in feeble and exhausting discord,—harmony will be preferred to absolute Speechlessness; and proportion, to convulsive Impediment; and the Mute, and the Stammerer, will hold what I have to offer them, in some degree of estimation."

Encouraged by this supposition, I continued to labour, with increasing application, for the complete developement of my system;—persevering in the plan, upon which I had first set out, of uniting theoretical study and scientific analysis with practical experience. Every new course of lectures led me nearer to the full comprehension of my subject;—to the detection of some error, or the supply of some imperfection; and every new pupil became the object of some new experiment, that suggested some important axiom, opened some new field of enquiry, or illustrated some general principle; and, tho I seemed, perhaps, to be making a considerable sacrifice of present interest, by remaining so long out of the metropolis, my system derived advantages from this circumstance, that are beyond appreciation. The cases were more various, that fell under my consideration; and the opportunities of comparing opinions, and collecting

facts, from scientific and professional men, were more numerous, than could have been expected from a settled residence in London:—for, in provincial towns, gentlemen, of this description, have occasional leisure, to talk over any subject, that excites a passing, or a permanent interest; and to such the topic of my Lectures was, every where, acceptable. I had myself, also, a degree of leisure, during these excursions, for that reflection and enquiry which the novelty and the difficulty of my subject required; but which was neither to be hoped nor wished, when my ultimate establishment should once be made:—for here, the professional man (if he be successful) is, for nine or ten months in the year, a horse in a mill; going one incessant round of practical exertion, till mere exhaustion compels him to repose.

Among those, to whom, during these excursions, my Science was particularly indebted, I ought, perhaps, to mention a respectable physician (alike distinguished for the attainments of science, and for the amiable qualities of the heart) who is now in considerable practice in the metropolis, but was then professor at Anderton's Institution, in Glasgow:—a gentleman, whose friendship sustained

me, in an arduous struggle; and whose sanction confirmed, while his conversation corrected and improved my Theory.

Others of the same profession will be mentioned, and more will be alluded to, in the course of my narrative. But I cannot, in justice to my subject, longer delay to mention my particular obligations to that accurate philosopher and philanthropist, Mr. Gough, of Middleshaw: whose papers in the Philosophical Transactions of the Manchester Society, have sufficiently evinced the profundity of his researches into the interesting phænomena of human voice; and a part of whose correspondence on the occasion of my Lectures on that subject, at Kendal, in Westmoreland, was laid before the public, in February, 1804, thro the channel of the Monthly Magazine.

To the suggestions of this gentleman, I owe the extension of my theory of secondary vibrations; or of the complication of resounding organs, that respond to the original impulse from the larynx, and strengthen and modify the tones of the voice:—a part of the discovery so much the more important, as I have since, in the course of practice, had occasion to observe—that the mistaken or excessive

action of the chest (the organ to whose modifying influence my attention was first called by this philosopher) is one of the occasional sources of Impediment; and of a species of impediment, not less injurious to the general health of the system, than to the grace, the effective energy, and the facility of elocutionary exertion.

If, therefore, the correspondence alluded to, has not happened to fall under your perusal, it will not, perhaps, be improper to enclose the following transcript of the communication in question. It was dated Lancaster, 15th November, 1803,—and was as follows:

"*To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.*

"SIR,

"By permission of the writer, I transmit, for insertion in your respectable Miscellany, a communication with which I have recently been favoured by that well known scientific phænomenon, Mr. John Gough. The ingenious Essay "On the Causes of the Variety of Human Voices," communicated, some years ago, by that gentleman, to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, is of course well known to a numerous

class of scientific readers, to whom the Memoirs of that once active and flourishing institution, heretofore, presented a fund of rational amusement. The theory of unisons and secondary vibrations by which that essay so ingeniously accounts—first for the different tones of different instruments of the same nominal and apparent structure, and thence, by inference and analogy, for the diversities of tone so remarkable in different human voices, must have carried conviction to the mind of every scientific musician, and every reflecting observer of those characteristic varieties which that theory professes to explain. With the speculative theorems of that essay the practical observations of the ensuing letter are naturally and intimately connected: and the judicious observations it contains, receive additional interest from the source whence they are derived. Cut off, in his earliest infancy, from all intercourse with the world of knowledge and observation, through the customary inlet, the organ of sight, Mr. Gough has been induced, by the cooperation of this privation with his ardent and insatiable thirst of science, to cultivate, with extreme diligence, the supplementary faculties of hearing and of touch. The acute perfection to which the latter

of these has been improved and expanded, has been sufficiently demonstrated by the extent to which he has carried his practical researches into the minutiæ of the science of botany; and the exquisiteness of his perceptions in the other kind—the promptitude with which he discovers the stature of the merest stranger by the first resoundings of his voice (of which I have myself been witness), and the facility with which he recognizes the presence, and discriminates the identity of his acquaintance, by merely listening to their respective breathings, equally illustrate the unprecedented degree of improvement to which he has expanded his hearing faculties: so that Mr. Gough is, in reality, one of those *demonstrative instances* of the omnipotency of mental energy, who justify the apparent hyperbole, with which I occasionally stimulate the perseverance of my pupils—that where determined effort and enthusiastic diligence are not wanting, the blemishes of physical nature effectively disappear, "the blind "themselves are penetrating; and the mute have "tongues of fire!"

"The communication originated (as will be apparent from the context) from the circumstance of Mr. Gough's attendance upon my Lecture, "On

" the Education and Management of the Organs of " Voice," during the short course of Lectures, (eight in number) that I have recently delivered in the town of Kendal, " On the Science and Practice of " Elocution ; " and the suggestion of the writer is perfectly correct, that his remarks will tend to the improvement of my theory. With that theory however, those remarks are in perfect consonance. In a previous Lecture " On the Structure, Physiology, " and Offices of the Organs of Speech," which Mr. Gough (the remoteness of whose residence interfered with the regularity of his attendance) did not happen to hear, the secondary vibrations of the human voice through the whole of the cavities and fibres of the head were expressly traced; the respective characteristic tones were specified, and demonstrated, in their connexion with the respective organs of promulgation and modification, (the *roof,* the *nostrils,* the *maxillaries,* &c.) and the practical appeal to the collateral evidence of the sense of touch, by the application of the finger to the vibrating fibres of the head, during the specific intonations, was dictated for the confirmation of the fact. Beyond this essential member of the animal frame, I confess, however, that my researches

into the ramifications of the organ of voice had never been extended. The observations of my correspondent expand the theory through a still wider circuit; and the extension is demonstratively just. The suggestion of the expansion of sonorous power, and consequent diffusion of sound, through a wider circuit, in proportion to the *number* (not *loudness*) of the vibrating unisons, and of the application of the powers of volition to the purpose of bringing the respective vibratory fibres into the state of unison required, (which may be extended to every description of enunciative effort, as well as to the *theatrical whispering* to which it is here applied) will also be found of most especial importance to all persons whose professional or public duties call for the emphatic exertions of the elocutionary powers. To such persons, therefore, I have no doubt that the discovery will be highly acceptable; and I proceed accordingly to the quotation of Mr. Gough's letter.

" Sir,

" The spirit of inquiry, and the valuable obser-
" vations which enriched your lecture on the edu-
" cation of the voice, encourage me to offer a few

" facts and reflections to your consideration. The " naked truth is simply this: I am vain enough to " imagine myself able to improve your theory of " the power of the human voice; and, as the im- " provement demonstrates the propriety of the rules " which you have given to facilitate the attain- " ment of this accomplishment, I have ventured " to trouble you with the following thoughts on the " subject.

" The egress of the voice is generally supposed " to be confined to the aperture of the lips; but " any person may convince himself, that this no- " tion is ill-founded, by a simple experiment. Let " him place the tip of his finger upon his breast, " or the side of his forehead, when he is speaking, " and the sense of touch will inform him immedi- " ately, that the vibrations of the larynx are not " restricted to the compass of the windpipe, but " extend to the more distant parts of the head and " chest, which vibrate in conjunction with the " primary organs of voice. In fact, the upper " moiety of the speaker's body becomes an exten- " sive field of sound, resembling a drum, every " member of which vibrates as oft as a stroke is " imparted to the parchment covering by the drum-

" stick. Experience shews, that a fixed quantity " of percussive force produces sounds, possessing " greater or less powers, according as this force is " permitted to act upon greater or less portions of " vibrating surface. The notes of a clarionet can " fill a circle a mile in diameter; but if the reed, " or mouth-piece, be made to sound, when dis- " united from the tube, it cannot be heard at the " distance of one hundred yards; though this " instrument evidently produces vibrations in the " latter instances, which are equal to those it pro- " duced in the former.

" Let us now substitute the larynx in place of " the mouth-piece; also, let the chest, together with " the head, represent the trunk of the clarionet; " and this easy transition, from art to nature, ex- " plains the method whereby the power of the " voice is increased: for it discovers the physical " causes upon which the secret depends. This me- " thod consists chiefly in contracting the upper " extremity of the windpipe, so as to make the " muscles of the larynx rest strongly upon the " breath, during its escape from the lungs. In " this manner a quick succession of powerful vi-

" brations is produced; and these impulses pervade " the superior moiety of the speaker, with a power " proportionate to their primitive force. The " upper part of his body is then converted into an " automatic clarionet; the effect of which, in re- " spect of distance, arises in part from the muscular " strength of the larynx; and is derived partly " from the magnitude of that portion of his body, " which vibrates in company with the primary " organs of voice.

" I have now completed the outline of my theory, " by enumerating the physical principles which act " in conjunction, so as to enlarge the power of the " voice. Should the task of comparing my opi- " nion with facts appear worth pursuing, you may " easily confirm or refute the theory by making the " comparison: for my part, I shall take notice but " of one incident of the kind; and this is, the cir- " cumstance of powerful whispering, which you " mention in your lecture on the education of the " voice. Actors differ from other men, as they " use their endeavours occasionally to make their " whispers intelligible to the multitude. This " effort is exacted by the nature of the profession,

" which requires certain secrets of the drama to be
" communicated to the audience, apparently in the
" language of secrecy. The person who wishes to
" acquire this difficult attainment, will, probably,
" find the accomplishment of his enterprize facili-
" tated by making a proper use of the following
" facts. First, if a body is forced to vibrate in con-
" sequence of its connexion with another already
" in a state of vibration, the greatest effect will be
" produced when the two bodies are in unison.
" Second, the vibratory faculty of the chest may be
" altered by varying the pressure of the muscles
" belonging to this part of the human frame; in
" the same manner that the vibratory faculty is
" changed in a drum by altering the action of the
" braces. It follows from these properties of trans-
" mitted sound, that the man will whisper with the
" greatest effect who can put his head and chest
" into unison with his larynx, when it is in a state
" of extreme relaxation.

" You very justly observe, that the science is yet
" in its infancy, which teaches the art of giving
" power to the voice by a judicious management
" of the vocal organs. Should the preceding at-
" tempt advance the infant one ste[illegible]wards ma-

" turity, the design of the present letter will be " answered. I am, &c.

Middleshaw, Nov. 3, 1803. " JOHN GOUGH."

" To the observations of Mr. Gough on the sonorous vibrations of the fibres of the chest, I have only to add, that, since the receipt of his letter, I have tried his hypothesis, by the test which he suggests, both in private experiment, and during my public exertions; that, to me, at least, those experiments have appeared sufficiently satisfactory; and that the fact thus discovered appears to be an important addition to the means of practical improvement in elocutionary science. If I may be permitted to judge of the success of my own experiments, the application of the suggestion has added, at least, one more to the manageable varieties and modifications of vocal intonation. Indeed, if the whole of my theory and that of Mr. Gough be not fallacious, this must eventually be the case: as nothing is more clear than that the improvement of any faculty must necessarily depend, in a very considerable degree, upon the accurate comprehension of the instrumentality by which the functions of that faculty are carried on; and, as the human

voice is not so strictly speaking a single instrument, as a concert of many instruments, whose respective powers and characteristic tones are exceedingly different from each other; and as we have, evidently, the power, by the actions, compression, tension, positions, and relaxations of the respective voluntary muscles connected with each and all of these, to direct (partially or intirely) the influential or *secondary vibrations*, that respond to the original impulses of the larynx, through one, or other, or several, or all of these, as occasion, or inclination require, he who best knows the respective portions of this *automatic* band from which the different intonations are to be elicited, will, necessarily, be best enabled to command the correspondent tones, which the several passions, sentiments, and combinations of language may require; and every discovery which extends the just theory of vocal vibrations, extends, accordingly, the practicable powers of elocutionary expression."

The reflections above made are not all those of a practical nature which have arisen out of the com-

munication: still less are the consequences arising from a knowledge of the vibratory power of the chest confined to the improvement of the phenomena of whispering—nor indeed was it ever the meaning of Mr. Gough that such consequences were so to be confined. There are evils, both elocutionary and constitutional, that arise out of the too predominant vibration of the chest, as well as inconveniences from not sufficiently calling that organ into a state of vibration: for harmony, modulation and richness of voice, as well as power and facility, depend upon the judicious and voluntary apportionment of the characteristic vibrations of the respective organs; and a certain celebrated actor, by a proper initiation into this system, might have avoided that deep pectoralism, or sepulchral tone, which constitutes his greatest defect; while many a young actress, who *pumps* herself into a consumption, by injudicious labour of the chest,—and many a spouting orator,—by the application of a few simple rules, might make a better system of Elocution conducive alike to health and impressive energy.

Perhaps, Sir, it might not be uninteresting to dwell upon the subject of this communication still

further;—to state the circumstances under which the idea was first suggested to Mr. Gough, and the series of experiments, by which I have verified his conclusions:—especially as several of these, and particularly those which have been tried with the chest in a state of submersion, and by the contact of several parts of the body with the frames of chairs, and other vibratory substances, are equally curious and entertaining. But such detail would lead me, I fear, too far, from my present purpose. If ever I should find leisure and encouragement to publish, at large, the first, or physiological series of my Lectures, the results of these experiments will find their way to the public, in their proper order.

But my obligations to Mr. Gough are not confined to his communications and suggestions on the subject of pectoral vibration. I am indebted to him, also, for many useful hints during our conversational intercourse, and the communication, in a more permanent form, of many interesting facts and apposite inductions;—some of which will be quoted in other parts of this letter, and all of which were calculated to throw fresh light upon that important and interesting subject, which, about this time, began to occupy a considerable portion

of my attention :—namely,—*the Complication of Moral and Mental Causes, in many of those Cases of non-developement both of the Organic and the Intellectual Faculties, which have been generally regarded as purely Physical, or Constitutional.* And though I must confine myself, somewhat longer, to the more particular subject of Impediments, it is not my intention to lay down the pen, without suggesting—that it is not only to vocal and enunciative imperfections, but, in a certain degree, to the developement of every faculty, and to many of the diseases and apparent deficiencies of mind, that a consistent system of Tuition (founded on the combined knowledge of physical and moral principles —or, in other words—of the organic structure, the passions, and the susceptibilities of human nature) may efficaciously apply.

During this pilgrimage of my science,—this journey, at once, of promulgation and discovery, which occupied between four and five years ; and which was extended to almost every considerable town, from Birmingham and Hereford, to Edinburgh and Glasgow, the truth and efficacy of my general principles were tried—(as they have, also,

been—during the four years that I have been here established) in all the variety of application, to every species of provincialism of tone and accent, and almost every description of impediment; as also, to the improvement of the grace and harmony of the voice, in reading and conversation; in dramatic recitation, and the energy of oratorical delivery.

Of the Cases of Impediment, some were of a description that had already been submitted, without avail, to medical and chirurgical treatment; in some few, I have found it necessary, to call in the assistance of the operator; and some have been referred to my management, by the advice of medical men of high respectability; whose recommendation, I am authorised in stating, has not been dishonoured by the event. Some cases, also, fell under my cognizance, and became objects of my enquiry (during this excursion) which from their serious and complicated nature, from the circumstances of the parties, and the time and settled residence, which their proper treatment would have required, were, of inevitable necessity, subject to my *observation* only; or with which, at most, I could only interfere by passing animadversion or

advice. Some, also, (since my residence in London) have been under my private management, which, from the nature of the Cases, and certain circumstances of rank and station, may be considered as too delicate for that species of communication, which is to be transmitted through the medium of the press:—Cases that place in the clearest point of view, the connection between the developement of the organic functions, and that of the intellectual faculties.

Among the early cases that fall within the description of Impediment, there is one, Sir, in particular, which, I flatter myself, will be more than ordinarily interesting to you: the case of a young Gentleman, then of Birmingham, but now holding a place under the government, in one of the offices at Somerset House. This gentleman (then about seventeen) had, from his birth, a considerable and serious deficiency in the organization of the mouth; having a fissure of the roof, almost from the very gums, and a consequent defect of the uvula: the imperfect portions of which (separated, also) clung to the back part of the throat. These were therefore, partly from construction, and still more from habit, totally useless, in the pronunciation of speech

and regulation of the tones of the voice: and such was the state of his enunciation altogether (if enunciation it might be called) that his own father could not, at all times, understand him; even when he attempted to pronounce the names of his most intimate friends. You will, perhaps, remember, Sir, that about six or seven years ago the father of this young gentleman consulted you upon the nature of his case, and the possibility of relief. I am confident that I only do justice to your kindness and liberality, when I premise, that, tho *I was not unknown to you,* my new pursuits and *professional discoveries were,* when (upon examination of the deficiency) you gave the opinion, which I understand you to have pronounced,—that it was a case in which there could be no relief. As such, I believe, have all similar cases been, hitherto, pretty generally regarded: and tho I have always cherished a very different faith, and, in my public Lectures, had boldly promulgated the opinion—that wherever hearing and intellect existed, mechanic art and elocutionary science might triumph over every other difficulty, yet my science was then in its infancy, and my experiments had only been tried in remote parts of the country. So serious an ex-

periment as this, indeed, I had never, then, met with any opportunity of trying.

The father, however, of the unfortunate young gentleman, unwilling to leave any effort untried that might afford a shadow of hope, took him to one of those Dentists who profess to fabricate artificial organs; and who made for him, a palate and moving uvula of gold; which was, in certain respects, very ingenious; tho, from particular defects, and too much complication in the mechanism, it was very troublesome, and liable to be perpetually out of repair. It was obvious, also, that it exposed the wearer to the possibility of a dangerous accident.

From this piece of mechanism, the young gentleman received *some* assistance; and, what was, perhaps, the principal source of that assistance—(as will be probable from the sequel) a degree of confidence that disposed him to effort. My arrival at Birmingham, about that time, and my Lectures there, on the Causes and Cure of Impediments, occasioned the friends of the young gentleman to bring him to me; and a short experiment, tried in the presence of those friends, was so decisive, that I thought I might safely leave it to their judgement (without advancing any opinion myself)

what was the probability of my being useful to him. The young gentleman continued to attend me, during the two or three weeks that I remained in Birmingham; and, perhaps, I cannot conclude the anecdote more satisfactorily, than by observing—that he has, now, no sort of difficulty in rendering himself sufficiently intelligible, even to *strangers* he may occasionally meet with, who have any Impediment in their speech, to advise them to put themselves under my management, and look with confidence for a cure: and this, altho he has long laid aside his artificial palate, and trusts, alone, to the directions I had given him for making the best use of the organs he has, and so directing the actions of one, as to enable it to supply the deficiencies of another. I have, at this time, under my roof, and advancing daily towards a cure, a pupil, with a very complicated impediment, who was recommended to me in this way.

It is rather a remarkable coincidence, Sir, that this latter gentleman, also, happens to have been a patient of yours, two or three years before my establishment in London; and to have been the subject of an operation on the frænum, or bridle of the tongue; the stricture of which had

been considered, by all the medical men who had been consulted, as the sole cause of his Impediment; but the separation of which, even under your judicious management, certainly, produced but a very partial relief.

This is, my dear Sir, the particular case to which I took the liberty of alluding, in my former Letter, when I submitted to your approbation the idea of this public address. And certainly nothing can be further from my thoughts than any insinuation of impropriety in the performance of such operation. I only wish—that all persons, who labour under such imperfections, would consult such an authority, before they have an operation performed. We should not, then, have infants murdered in the cradle (as Dr. Denman informs us that they have been) by the scissars of officious nurses; nor should we have more serious and irremediable mischiefs produced (as in some instances that I have witnessed), by giving the tongue too much liberty —(I do not mean to speak metaphorically), than ever resulted from its too great restriction. I am perfectly aware, that there are cases in which the operation of cutting the frænum is necessary; and

this was certainly one of them;—for the tongue, upon examination, will be found, at this time, in every respect that could have been affected by the operation, precisely in the state the elocutionist would require. When Nature has not placed them in this state, Art must sometimes be appealed to: and I have myself, heretofore, caused similar operations to be performed. Two young gentlemen, who were my pupils in Doncaster, were thus operated upon, under my own immediate superintendance, while I was resident there. But I had, at the same time, two other pupils (brethren also—all from the Classical Seminary of the Rev. Mr. Inchbald) who had both come into the world with this same defective structure. The sagacious nurse, however, had snipped the bridle of the elder brother; and she had done irreparable injury. She had separated too much; and the tongue remained in the mouth, to a considerable degree inert,—suspended in the middle of the cavity, and deprived of some portion of the natural command of motion and position which would, I conceive, have belonged to it, but from this improper separation. The younger brother had escaped this premature operation; never necessary, Dr. Denman says, for the

alleged purposes of nutrition; and never proper, I will venture to add, for any other purpose, during the season of early childhood.

The mouth of the young gentleman who had thus fortunately escaped the presumptuous quackery of the nursery, exhibited a most curious complication of duplicated and reduplicated *fræna*. It might almost have illustrated Dr. Johnson's definition of *net-work*—"something reticulated or decussated, with interstices between the intersections;" and this had, of course, produced some imperfections of early utterance. But Nature had been left, for a proper time, to her own experiments and operations; and the mind of the young gentleman having been active and vigorous, his faculties alert, and his ambition of oratorical accomplishment considerable, the ligatures had gradually elongated, by exertion; so as to leave little for me to do, when he came under my inspection; and that little, we accomplished, so completely, without knife or scissars, that, during one of my public Lectures, I ventured to put him forward, before a numerous audience, in the Town Hall of Doncaster, as a competent substitute, to pronounce for me the speech of Lord Chatham against employing Indians in the American war:

and he did so pronounce it, as to justify the hope—that he may, hereafter, deliver, in the most conspicuous situations, with every requisite accompaniment of grace and energy, the equally vigorous sentiments of his own independent mind.

But, tho I admit the propriety, and even the necessity, of an occasional appeal to this operation (when the pupil is old enough, and when the experiment has been sufficiently tried, to ascertain that the efforts of Nature will not suffice)—permit me, Sir, to suggest the opinion, that the most serious parts of the complicated impediment of the gentleman now in question, never did, and never could have originated, actually and immediately, in the constriction of that tongue. I say the most serious parts; for the impediment, as I have observed already, is exceedingly complicated; and there can be no doubt, that the restriction of the tongue would still further increase the indistinctness of his enunciation. But, with respect to the suffocation of the struggling breath, in the larynx, the stagnation of all voluntary motion in the lips and jaw, the distortions of the nostrils,—all the revolting phænomena, which continued to mark this particular case, when I first became acquainted with it; and that still

more hideous multitude, that might be selected from other cases that have fallen under my observation ;—That these, or any of these, had any thing or could have any thing, immediately, to do with the bridle of the tongue, may, I think, be fully and satisfactorily disproved. I believe, also, that it may be equally disproved—both by analogous reasoning and by experiment, that defects of organization have any thing to do with any of the various descriptions of Impediment, generally included under the appellations of Stammering and Stuttering. That is to say—that Impediments of this description, do not, and cannot flow, *directly* or *necessarily*, from such cause; and, consequently, that no chirurgical operation can possibly be an efficient remedy for such defect.

I am ready, however, to admit—that such original mal-conformation, obstructing the ordinary process of utterance, may have been one, among many, *remote* causes, that have superinduced mistaken and ill-directed efforts of the other organs, vocal and enunciative ; and may, therefore, have conduced to that embarrassment of mind, that irritability of temper, and those other mental and moral maladies, with which such impediments are generally, more

or less intimately, connected. But the same may be said of the rods and canes of brutal pedagogues;—of the horse's hoofs of that monster of inhumanity, who had one of his boys placed under the belly of his less irrational animal, and kept him there, till convulsive terror produced a stammering that has afflicted him ever since, and destroyed, in a considerable degree, the energies both of his constitution, and his intellects.—The same might also be said of the brutal and Herculean grasp of the Lancashire labourer, who first brought on the impediment of another of my provincial pupils, by suspending him, when he was five or six years of age, over the bridge of a canal in Lancashire, till he was almost dead with terror and convulsive agitation. Yet, surely, it is obvious, that these being the remote, or accidental causes, only, of those moral and intellectual (or, if you please, nervous) effects, which, thus produced, became, in their turn, the immediate causes of the impediments, — neither splitting the canes and burning the rods (however necessary)—nor adorning the gibbet (however just) with the equestrian pedant, or the less brutal hind, could remedy the stammerings they had, originally, been operative in producing.

I am arguing, I trust, Sir, in consonance with the philosophy of that school, to which you did me the honour of first introducing me, when I, thus, endeavour to distinguish between remote and accidental, and immediate and necessary causes; and, since I am upon the subject, I beg leave to push the argument a little further. Nothing is more common than to hear talk of Nervous Impediments, and Constitutional Impediments, and Hereditary Impediments: [I have two Hereditary Impediments, at this time, in my house;—one of them has lineally descended, both in the maternal and paternal line, to the third generation:—tho I have, fortunately, pretty nearly completed the process of cutting off the entail.] By all these fine words, the idea necessarily meant to be conveyed, is, I presume,—that such impediments are the result of an excessive delicacy and irritability in the constitutional fibre: in other words, that they are physical consequences of mere physical causes. Yet many persons who have equal irritability of fibre and delicacy of constitution, have no impediment; and many persons, also, have impediments, of the same, or very similar descriptions, who have, otherwise, no mark or semblance of such constitutional defect. This ner-

vousness, then, and this debility, are not the sole, the necessary, or the immediate causes of such impediments. I admit, however, that they are partial and predisposing causes: that certain habits of constitution are more subject to this, as they are to many other maladies and infections: nay, that these physical causes have even an influence (not inconsiderable) upon those mental and moral causes, which I conceive to be the principal sources of Impediments of Speech; as, also, of many other species of derangement and non-developement of the organic faculties. But every predisposition does not necessarily produce a specific disease;—nay it is never the *producer!*—nor, is the disease incurable, because the original constitutional predisposition cannot be entirely eradicated. Remove the proximate or active cause, and you conquer the disease; establish a system, and enforce a regimen, that may preclude the return of such active cause; and your patient is secure. Remove the mental and moral maladies (no matter from what prior circumstances they may, themselves, originally, have sprung) that are, in reality, the immediate causes of so many serious impediments; restore, or produce those essential links of association, between the

physical perception and the mental volition, and between the mental volition and the organic action, which either have some how been broken, or have never properly been formed—and the stammerer, the stutterer, the throttler, the endless reiterator, and almost the whole order of unfortunate persons, whose impediments consist in *obstructed* utterance, are relieved from their affliction: no matter what were the original circumstances that broke, or interrupted those associations: whether disease, or terror, or mimicry, or ligature of the tongue, or deficiency of the palate, or headlong impetuosity, or dejection and apathy: whether, in short, the mental embarrassment, that immediately produces this partial chaos of organic effort, spring from any of these,—or whether, from the circumstances of some primary organic deficiency, or some moral defect,—tardy developement of faculty, or error of education. Form, superinduce these requisite associations, if they have never yet existed; restore them, if they have been broken:—tranquillize the agitated mind; restrain its impetuosity; check its irritation; rouse it from its lethargy; stimulate it apathy:—Impress the perceptive faculty, clearly and strongly; demonstrate, step by step, your

theory to the understanding; and interest, at the same time, the imagination; leave nothing obscure or unaccounted for, that the capacity of the pupil can comprehend, or that, from the nature and structure of his frame and faculties, is capable of illustration; give him a system on which he can see and feel that he may depend,—on which you know yourself that dependance may be placed; be confident, and teach your pupil to confide; and then, with diligence and perseverance, the habit of regular utterance will, progressively, be formed, and the irregular habit will be supplanted:—the stammerer shall become fluent, and the mute shall sing the praises of your art.

As for Hereditary Impediments!—what are these (like other hereditary traits of character and deportment) but habits of imitation?—or, if you please, of early, diseased association. If little master hath a papa, or little miss a grandpapa, that stammers, or that gabbles, or that throttles,—is it extraordinary, that the one (even before he can be aware that there is any other or better mode of speaking) should imitate this defect of the person from whom he is constantly aping almost every other action; or that the other should be encou-

raged in a ludicrous mimicry, that ultimately ripens into an habitual and involuntary caricature, of that which it was originally intended only to deride? Ought such imitations to be confounded with hereditary gout and hereditary asthma, or any of those simple physical maladies, that, having tainted the blood, and diseased the whole material system, may naturally enough be expected, thro the ordinary currents of physical transmission, to descend from generation to generation? Let us rather consider these evil habits of utterance, as accidents and consequences merely personal;—as instances of broken, or rather of diseased association;—as diseases originating in mental and moral causes: and, instead of abandoning them to despair, let us confidently apply to them, as to the former description of similar diseases, the personal treatment calculated to correct and counteract the false, or the confused impressions, that are the sources of all the evil.

To make this application, however, in all its requisite extent, is not, and, it is obvious, cannot be, the province of the surgeon or the physician:—tho, in certain cases, the *cooperation* of these may be useful and even indispensable. The cure must

be looked for in the diligent, and (in serious cases) the constant superintendance of some judicious tutor, familiar, alike, by long study and practical attention, with the phænomena of such impediments, the physiology and pathology of the organs, and the philosophy and the diseases of the human mind.

But do I, then, consider all cases of Impediment as complicated with Moral and Intellectual causes? Most assuredly, my dear Sir! with very few exceptions. I consider very many of them, as purely mental and moral: except so far, as, by reaction of the mind upon the physical frame, the vital and organic actions may become diseased by the perturbations of passion and eccentric humour, or the confusion of the understanding. I consider all of them to be complicated with mental and moral causes, that do not, clearly and obviously, arise out of palpable imperfections or deficiencies of the organs; and that are not obviously confined to imperfection in the pronunciation of the particular elements usually formed by the particular organ which is imperfect or deficient. Such are the impediments that result from the hare lip; from fissure

of the roof, obliteration of the Uvula and Velum Palati; loss, or ill position of the front teeth; original constriction of the tongue, or excessive separation of that organ.

But I am aware—that people, in general, are so far from reasoning in this way,—that nothing is more common than to hear impediments ascribed to physical and organic causes, which may be traced (demonstrably traced!) to habitual mis-action (during the effort of speech) in those very organs that require, for the purposes of life, a more perfect structure and sanity, than elocution ever can demand; and in which, of course, the consequence of any considerable imperfection or deficiency, would be the actual preclusion of vitality:—as the muscles that govern the motion of the lungs, and the passages of the breath in respiration; the bronchia, the glottis, &c.

Such, indeed, is the particular case that has led me into this long disquisition. This gentleman had, it seems, a constriction of the tongue, that would have prevented him from completely forming the elements represented by our letters *s* and *th*, and, perhaps, those that belong to the *t*, the *d*, and all the *lingua-dental* sounds. But this conformation could never have caused him to seal his lips, as it

were, hermetically, when he should have pronounced *an open vowel, a guttural,* or either of the *labia-dental* elements; nor to have constricted the glottis, and held in the breath, till he was in danger of suffocation, and till exhaustion, rather than volition, released, at last, the half modified impulse that was only regularly to have been produced by an effort as remote as possible from that which he was making.

All these are phænomena I have frequently met with, in cases where there was certainly no malconformation whatever, in any part of the organs of speech. In one instance, in particular, that of a daughter of Colonel ***** of Edinburgh, they were exaggerated to such a degree, that the face would become blackened, the eyes convulsed, and the whole frame agitated to the most distressing extent imaginable. Yet the diligent attention of twelve successive mornings (all that particular circumstances permitted me to devote to this case,) and some particular directions left behind me, as to her future treatment, were sufficient to demonstrate—that this impediment was no necessary consequence of any constitutional cause; and I had the pleasure, afterwards, of meeting this young lady, in the pub-

lic rooms at Matlock, perfectly free from every vestige of impediment.

I am almost ashamed to state this fact; because, tho this was comparatively one of my early cases, I confess that I have never since been able to do so much, in so little time. But mental and moral causes step in to the explanation of this circumstance. I have never met with so devoted an attention, and so entire a confidence. The young lady was just at the favourable age of perception and innocent docility; about eleven or twelve; and I had the good fortune to step, so instantaneously, and so entirely, into her confidence, that in the emphatic language of a gentleman, who witnessed a part of the operation, she seemed to have put her whole soul and faculties into my hands, to be moved and directed at my bidding. She seemed, in short, to perceive that I was come to rescue her from the misery of being in eternal solitude, even in the midst of society; and of having the faculties of intellectual enjoyment only to feel that she was prohibited from their exertion; and she never seemed to entertain a doubt of my accomplishing what I had undertaken. But her enthusiasm did not go the fatal length of supposing—that it was to be

accomplished, without the cooperation of her own efforts and diligence.

It is no small proof of the complication, at least, of intellectual and moral causes, in impediments of speech, that, in almost every species of them, I should have found, with tolerable regularity, the cure to be more or less facilitated, in proportion to the degree of this feeling I have been fortunate enough to inspire. Doubt and fear, dejection and melancholy, lethargic gloom and sullen irritation, and the whole train of distressing emotions, that cloud the faculties and bewilder the understanding, disappear before them; and cheerful composure and consistent effort, the best preparatives for the renewal, or the formation of the necessary associations between the perceptive and the executive faculties, readily supply their place.

Nor is it only thro the medium of their influence on the understanding, that moral causes act. The temper and disposition of the individual frequently decide the nature of his impediment; and the character of the patient must be studied,—nay the passions of his mind, to a certain extent, at least, must be corrected and regulated, before the confusion of organic action can be completely remedied.

If I am asked "Whether the clouded mind and moral dispositions I am alluding to, are not frequently to be regarded as consequences, rather than causes of the impediments with which they are associated?"—I shall answer, at once, that these are not the only circumstances in which physical and moral phænomena run a circle, and become alternately cause and effect. This complication is certainly very apparent in the particular case to which I am at this time recalling your attention; and a considerable part of the difficulty in treating it, certainly arises from this very complication.

In cases where there is an evident mixture of physical or constitutional derangement, it seems to be equally necessary to remove the disease, in order that you may cure the impediment, and the impediment, that you may cure the disease; and where the complication is of a moral description, it appears to be equally indispensable to improve the disposition, in order to remove the impediment, and to correct the impediment, in order to remove the moral indisposition. The consolation, however, is —that, if the whole of the complication be properly understood, and the plan of operation be conducted accordingly, the causes that have acted in a

circle, will re-act in a circle, also; and every point you have gained, in one respect, may be used, with confidence, in securing some advantage in the other.

The mind, however,—the state and management of the intellectual faculties, must, in all these cases, be attended to; for whosoever, in the treatment of any impediment (not merely chirurgical) shall be unacquainted with the links of mental and organic association, or negligent of the means of their proper formation and management, will work in the dark; and, if he occasionally succeed, it must be by chance, and not by induction and management. Premise the requisite knowledge and attention, in this respect, and he marches onward to his object, sometimes with a quicker, and sometimes with a slower pace (according to the nature of the ground he has to tread over); but with a geographical—a mathematical certitude.

Shall I go further, Sir? Shall I state my conviction, at once,—that there are Impediments of Speech that are of the nature of Idiotcy!—that there are Impediments of Speech that are of the nature of Derangement!—nay, that all impediments that are not the pure and simple results of organic

malconformation, have, at least, a certain degree of affinity with one or other of these mental afflictions:—that every stammerer, stutterer, throttler, constipator, involuntary confounder, and unconscious reiterator of the elements of speech (whatever attainments or faculties he may, in other respects, possess) is *partially*, and to a certain extent, either idiotic, or deranged: for what but derangement can it be called, to be constantly doing a thousand things that we neither intend to do, nor are conscious of doing? nay, that are the very reverse of all that is in our intention! What, but a species of idiotcy, is it, to be ignorant of the means by which the will is to influence the simplest organs of volition, and (without excuse of palsy, stricture, or organic privation) to be unable to move a lip, a tongue, or a jaw? or perform the common functions of our species?—to clinch the teeth, when we are bade to open the mouth! and roll the eyes, when we ought to move the lips!

It is curious, also, to observe the various and even contradictory circumstances (all connected with the passions and operations of the mind) under which these convulsive actions, occasionally, take place. I have known some gentlemen whose

impediments almost entirely disappeared in the presence of gay assemblages and female society; some, who could never get out a syllable, if there were a beautiful woman in company. Some have but little difficulty except in the presence of strangers;—others are never so seriously affected as before their own parents, or the persons under whose authority they are placed. I am aware that by those who are for referring every thing to mere physical causation, several of these cases, perhaps all of them, may be readily dismissed with a very specious theory: which is, certainly, a much more easy matter than to find an appropriate remedy. We shall be told of certain descriptions of impediment, that are partially relieved by an habitual, or an occasional glass of wine; and of others, that are more effectually treated by withholding every species of stimulating liquor: [I had once, unfortunately, two gentlemen of these opposite descriptions under my roof, at the same time;—one of whom could not get on at all, unless he took his pint of wine with his dinner; while the progress of the other could only be depended upon, while every thing like a bottle and a glass was kept out of his sight.] All these several cases will be bundled up in two parcels, and called diseases of

excessive, and diseases of defective irritability: and then, as far as education and moral treatment are concerned, there is an end of them. It is not my intention to deny that this is, in some instances, an accurate description of one part of the complicated malady in question. It is applicable enough to one half of the revolving circle. But a part is not the whole, in solid reasoning, and must not be so regarded in practice. In fact, many of these phænomena are capable of explanation by reference to moral causes; connected, it is true, in some instances, with constitutional predispositions; but, more frequently, with such as are merely educational. In all of them, the mind is, at any rate, participator in the infection; and it is worthy of remark, that no treatment merely physical (whether it be by the use of wine, or by abstinence,—by sea-bathing, or by the administration of tonics, or of alteratives) ever produces any thing more than temporary relief: for medicine was never yet radical in the removal of diseases of the mind. The imagination, the judgement, and the passions, require other physicians than the pupils of Galen and Hippocrates.

If these phænomena were, really, ascribable to mere physical and incurable misfortune, they would demand our silent pity: but if they are

really, as I affirm them to be, mere moral and mental diseases, springing out of the mistakes or the neglects of education, and capable of remedy from a more enlightened system of instruction, and from moral and mental regimen, let us exhibit them in their proper light; and not cover, with the apologetic mantle of a false compassion, the distemper that should be medicated and healed.

Perhaps the proper treatment of these specific maladies may lead us to the discovery—that there are other cases, of much more complicated defect, that are of a like nature with themselves; and, in which, the mistake of assigning to physical defect, exclusively, what is, at least, equally attributable to moral and educational causes, is not less injurious and fatal.

Every apparent ineptitude is not a physical idiotcy;—every non-developement of the faculties is not a consequence of defective organization;—every untoward excentricity is not a constitutional derangement. There is a power in educational folly and mistake, to distemper the brain, that might else have been tranquillized to consistency; and there is a power, also, in educational consistency of methodizing the mind, that might else have be-

come bewildered:—and there is, certainly, such a thing as confounding faculties that might have been cleared into perspicuity; and of developing those that might have been confounded; as well as there is a possibility of planting morality, where vice might else have luxuriated; or of grafting vices upon the very stock where every virtue might have been taught to flourish.

But, before I proceed to a subject so copious and so inviting, as the distinction between moral and physical idiotcy, let me say a word upon that class of impediments of speech, which originate simply in organic defect.

To some of these, as to the hare-lip, in particular, in all its hideous complications (as far as relates to the external deformity at least,) the surgeon has been long in the habit of applying an adequate remedy; and several cases of the kind, which had fallen under my own observation, or were furnished me by Mr. Branson, of Doncaster, and Mr. Astley Cooper, were noticed in the Course of Lectures I delivered, three or four years ago, at the opening of my present Institution. Nor is it, of late years, more uncommon to apply to the dentist, to remedy

(as far as relates to appearances) whatever is defective or imperfect in the teeth. But, Sir, may it not be worth inquiry—whether (even in these cases) every thing is usually done, that is both desirable and practicable.

Even when the original defect extends no further than to the deformity of the lip, if the operation hath not, fortunately, been performed in early infancy, will not some improper habits of speech—some ill-directed efforts, necessarily, or probably, have arisen out of the imperfection? which, if not properly attended to, after the deformity has been remedied, may leave behind some permanent Impediment, or defect of utterance. But it is not unknown to you, Sir, that the deformity of the hare-lip, is frequently complicated with much more serious deficiencies;—that the fissure, very often, extends thro the upper jaw; leaving, in front, a consequent defect, both of teeth and gums; and thence, occasionally, extends thro the entire roof of the mouth; to the utter obliteration of the uvula. In these cases, for the purposes of speech, it is not sufficient that, by an operation, we confer the grace of human symmetry on the external mouth: the interior deficiency, must, also, be sup-

plied; and supplied, upon principles accommodated to the structure (minutely examined) and the offices (well understood) of the parts, in a state of natural perfection. This is, also, occasionally attempted; and, in some instances, has been effected, I believe, with considerable success. I have been informed, upon good authority, that a late celebrated speaker of the Irish House of Commons (Mr. Flood) had an artificial roof, connected with an entire, or almost entire, row of upper teeth; the structure and adaptation of which, must have been very perfect, if it occasioned no very marked and offensive peculiarity of voice, and removed all imperfection of utterance. It is not always, however, that the business is so completely done; nor is such perfection to be looked for, from the tool of the ordinary dentist; who is, frequently, but a superficial artist, and little acquainted with the principles of science, by which, in such operations, his art should be directed. Nor is it always, in cases of such complicated difficulty, alone, that this deficiency is observable: even, when teeth, only, are to be supplied, all the circumstances that are requisite, are not always considered; and, perhaps, it will be found—that, even yet, our den-

tists, in general, have studied but one half of their profession. They have attended (some of them at least) with diligence and success, to the diseases and treatment of the natural teeth, and to the means of preventing or remedying deformities in early youth; but, when the decays, or extensive deficiencies of nature are to be supplied,—the imperfection of their art is apt to be too apparent. Instead of having well considered the functions, with respect to speech, in particular, which the teeth are called upon to perform,—instead of examining and comparing, with reference to this important object, the mouths of different speakers, and being well provided with casts and models of the perfectly formed mouth;—instead of investigating the principles of utterance, and the dependance of tone and enunciation, on the vibrations and aperture of the teeth, and inquiring—what are the particular positions (with reference to the manner of closing, and the contact of the upper and under series) most favourable to clearness of tune, and neatness of enunciation,—they, generally, satisfy themselves, with mere attention to appearances; and, too frequently, if the eye be but gratified, by

the whiteness and smoothness of the manufacture, the breath may whistle thro half a dozen apertures, or the unapproximating edges may baffle every effort of nice discrimination, in the sharper and duller sibilants, without its ever being suspected that the operation is left imperfect.

But, suppose the surgeon, alone,—or the surgeon and the mechanic artist, together,—or the mechanic artist, alone, to have done all that, on their respective parts, the nature of the case requires ;—suppose the lip to be reduced to proper symmetry and structure, and the deficient organs judiciously supplied ; or, suppose the defective organ incapable of supply, or that, in the opinion of the party, the inconvenience of the artificial apparatus, would be more than a counterbalance for the advantage, will there not be something yet to do, for the improvement of the speech, which, it is important, should not be omitted ?—Will not the natural organs require to be educated to a due cooperation with the artificial stranger, in the one instance ? or in the other, will there not be much for well directed art to accomplish, in enabling the existing organs to imitate, to a certain degree, the actions

of those that are deficient, and to supply their place? The Birmingham case, already mentioned, is, surely, a sufficient answer to this question.

In short, my dear Sir,—whatever natural or organic cause there may be, for any impediment of speech,—whatever deficiency of any of the elocutionary organs,—a part—a considerable part of the imperfection, will, upon experiment, be found attributable to the imperfect developement of the powers of the existing organs;—to the despairing negligence, or mistaken exertions, which have been superinduced by the apprehension, or the feeling of existing imperfection. I do not go the lengths I have heard ascribed to Professor Kant. —I do not mean to say—that "Speech is a faculty "purely mental; and that a man might become an "orator, tho he had neither teeth nor tongue, by "the mere action of the mind." I am no such *intellectual philosopher*. I trust, alone, to the facts of *physical experience*, and the inferences of *logical induction;* and leave the visionary theories of metaphysicians to those who imagine that they understand metaphysics. But, upon the foundations of this experience, and by the authority of that induction, I venture to pronounce—that speech is so

far a mental action,—and that the developement of the organic faculties, is so far dependant upon mental impression, and educational culture, that few persons are at all aware of the extent of improvability in the respective organs; or of the power that there is in one organ, of supplying the deficiencies, and performing the functions of another.

How widely, Sir, does this observation apply! How much, upon the subject of the developement of the organic powers, and the faculties in general, have we yet to learn! and how important is it, that the subject should be fully investigated!—investigated, not in the schools of metaphysicians, and the closets of theoretical students; but, practically and experimentally, by the professional philosopher, whose actual observation furnishes the fuel of his meditations, and whose meditations are as a torch to illuminate the paths of observation. Example and analogy may encourage us, in the ardour of this inquiry; and stimulate the patient—or the pupil—to effort and to hope. When deaf men (I allude to facts, of which I have myself been witness) have acquired an accurate perception of the proportions of music, thro the medium of vibra-

tions recognized by the organs of feeling;—when an armless phænomenon (as some have seen) has wielded the artist scissars with her toes, and cut out paper, with these clumsy substitutes, into the most elegant devices:—when a sightless philosopher (already alluded to) has used his tongue as eyes, and (with the nervous papillæ of that organ separating the filaments of almost microscopic plants) has prosecuted his discoveries into the minutest departments of botany;—let not any individual despond for a single blemish; or despair of attaining an impressive intelligibility of speech, because he may happen to be defective in some one of those particular organs, by which the process of speech is generally carried on: or, if it depend not on himself alone,—let the arbiters of his fate suspend, at least, the sentence of hopeless abandonment, till some rational experiment has been fairly tried;—till a series of systematic, and well directed efforts has ascertained—how far the flexibility of other parts of the mouth may be moulded and accommodated to new and untried functions.

Perhaps, my dear Sir! you will agree with me that there is more occasion for the latter part of this exhortation than benevolence could wish. We

do not, indeed, in this more civilized age, expose such of our children as have organic defects or palpable infirmities, to the mercy of wolves and elements: nay, some there are, who, with an excessive, tho imperfect sense of duty, foster imbecility, till pity is matured into infatuated partiality. Yet how small a portion of attention is, even in such instances, generally directed towards the means of remedying the imperfections to be deplored! and how reluctantly (too often) is every expense endured, that has for its object *only* the Intellects and the Faculties of our children! Their *interests,* indeed, are our perpetual theme; but how loosely do we calculate upon their *welfare!* The showy exteriors of idle accomplishment are not, indeed, neglected:—they must be procured (if there be a shadow of capability) at whatever expense; for they are *the badges of our rank;* but as for the developement of organic or intellectual faculties (if they be any way defective or obscured)—the reclamation of the excentric, the methodizement of the bewildered, or the excitement of the stagnant mind!—these may be left to adventitious accident—to the wolves and the rude elements of the intellectual desert; for the organic and intellectual fa-

culties are *the badges only of our species*:—or if these extraordinary deficiencies be at all attended to, the toil and mental exertion they require, are to aspire to nothing but an ordinary remuneration: for who would think of purchasing an understanding for his children, or obtaining for them the free exercise of human faculties, at a price that might have taught them to dance the fandango, or hurry their fingers over a piano-forte? [I do not mean, Sir, that either the dancing-school or the piano-forte are to be despised. I am no enemy to any species of accomplishment. I refer only to the rationality of comparative appreciation.]

Human nature would be degraded, were I to enumerate all the instances of this description that have fallen within my own cognizance;—but I cannot forbear taking some notice of a circumstance that occurred to me, in one of the most opulent families (so regarded at least) in this metropolis;—and in which, a serious impediment having been contracted by one of the eldest children, had been communicated, of course, like any other contagion, to the younger members of the family. To the two elder daughters of this family, I was called in, just at the end of the first season of my residence

in London, when there was barely time for me to give to each of them a course of twelve lessons, before their departure into the country. For these lessons I was then humble enough to take only twenty-five guineas; and such was the effect produced by them—that not only the parents themselves, but some friends, whom they called in to witness it, during the last lesson, could not help exclaiming—that they could not have given credit to the possibility of such a change without the evidence of their own senses. Yet, having had time to calculate, before their return to London, that the terms I demanded were a little more than they were in the habit of paying to the dancing-master, they very modestly offered me for my further attendance upon their two daughters, at the western extremity of the town, something less than I am in the habit of receiving for one such pupil attending me at my own house. A circumstance came to light, during this negotiation, that deserves a more public exposure than I am disposed to make of it. That the advantages of that portion of instruction I was able to impart, during the twelve days prior to their quitting town, might not be entirely lost, while they were in the country,

I had (with a degree of liberality, not common, I believe, with the professors of any mystery that is the result of their own personal discovery) permitted the mother of the young ladies to be present at the lessons, and had marked with a specific notation, on their book of exercises, the rules and maxims I had deemed it most necessary to explain. During our conversation, it was unwarily acknowledged—or, as a hint, perhaps, that now they could do without me,—that advantage had been taken of these circumstances; the book, with its notations, having been carried, with one of the sons, to a public school, and such an explanation given of the principles indicated, as had enabled the Tutor of that young gentleman to cure him of his defect.

To such terms and to such conduct (young as my project then was)—it might have been my interest to submit; and to drudge, for awhile, without remuneration, in the hope of future emolument from the seedlings of reputation I might be nourishing in this experiment. But such was not the temper with which I embarked in a profession, which I felt myself secure might be rested upon the solid bases of its own utilities; and my connection with the family ceased.

The spirit of the observations which, upon the grounds of something better than mere speculation, I have advanced, with respect to Impediments, will, I believe, apply, with equal force, to all those cases of Speechlessness, also, that do not result from absolute deafness. Such cases should always, in the mind of the philosophical practitioner, be kept perfectly distinct from those of the deaf-born dumb. They require a treatment, in many respects, essentially and fundamentally different. Much of the process requisite for the former would be destructive in the latter. From all substitutes and subterfuges—the whole language of signs and indications, the pupil, who is merely mute from the non-developement of existing faculty, ought, as far as possible, to be utterly excluded. The spirit of that regulation is, therefore, perfectly correct, that precludes all cases, of this description, from that noble Institution, so honourable to the philanthropy of the country, established for the education of the Deaf and Dumb.

But, tho improper objects of that particular charity, shall those unfortunate persons, whose speechlessness proceeds alone from moral and edu-

cational causes,—from a want of the application of proper stimuli for the developement of the organic faculties,—be consigned to hopeless idiocy? —shall no kind door be opened, for the relief of their afflictions — no inquiry be instituted, no plan encouraged, for the discovery and removal, of the causes of their apparent ineptitude?

I have my eye, while I am writing this, upon a particular, and an interesting case:—the case of a young female in Maidstone, the sisterinlaw of a schoolmaster in that town:—a modest and respectable man, whose love of learning has raised him from the plough to literary estimation, and whose patient industry is diffusing, for small remuneration, a portion of the same spirit among the surrounding youth. The young female (his speechless, or almost speechless relation) has been refused, upon the principle I have been justifying, at the institution for the deaf-born dumb: for she is not destitute of hearing: and, if I am not mistaken, she is not incapable of being taught to speak by a better and a shorter process than can be applicable to the absolutely deaf. Whether the directions I gave to her brotherinlaw, when I visited Maidstone, during the last Autumn, will be productive of any material consequences, I

cannot venture to predict: for these are not cases to be relieved by a transient observation and a passing prescription; and her relation, tho zealous, indefatigable and benevolent, cannot be expected, amid the daily labours of his vocation, to find time and opportunity for one tythe of that laborious attention such a case must inevitably require.

To the particular consideration of cases of this description, my mind was first conducted, by an unhappy instance of complicated calamity, that fell under my observation, while I was at Glasgow; and which, in the year 1804, I made the subject of a communication to the Monthly Magazine, to the following effect:

Case of a Child, Blind from the operation of the inoculated Small Pox; and supposed to have been rendered Speechless by the same cause:

"As professional facts, when any way connected with important inferences, or with subjects of philosophical inquiry, seem always to be acceptable in your miscellany, I transmit to you, a case which has lately presented itself within the sphere of my particular observation. I cannot, indeed, say, that

it is pregnant with any satisfactory conclusions, either of a practical or of a theoretical nature; or, that it furnishes any immediate proof of the triumph of those scientific principles which I am labouring to inculcate: but it may, at least, afford materials for a very interesting speculation on the incitements and sources of that species of imitative action, by which certain definable organs of the human frame are enabled to convey, with tolerable precision and accuracy, the impressions of one mind to the apprehensions of another. I allude, of course, to the actions of the organs of speech: actions, in their ultimate phænomena, sufficiently familiar to almost every human being; but the laws and operations of which have not, hitherto, attracted that degree of philosophical investigation to which, from the importance of their objects, they are, perhaps, entitled.

"The physiology of those organs, by which the functions of elocution are carried on, has, for some years, been the object of my particular attention; and I am free to acknowledge, that, among the sources of that success with which my public Lectures on the Science and Practice of Elocution have been so generally encouraged, the most grati-

fying to my feelings, and the most stimulating to my hopes, is the notoriety of that relief which, in consequence of such attention, I have been enabled to extend to persons afflicted with the most calamitous impediments; and even to those from whom the apparent caprices of nature have withheld some of the essential organs of enunciation. Till the case in question, indeed, an individual instance has not occurred, to which the principles of my science would not practically apply: and I began to persuade myself that, by a simple and easily communicable process, every human being, who had the gift of hearing, might readily be enabled to speak, with impressiveness and facility, at least, if not with elegance and harmony. But the case in question seems to present an exception to my conclusions; and, apparently, it defeats all theory. It is not so strictly speaking, a case either of *defect* or of *impediment,* as an instance of the imperfect developement, or non-application of the organs. It approximates more, in its phænomena, to the case of *Peter the wild Boy,* or that of the unfortunate *Savage of Aveyron,* than to any of those examples, either of defective construction, or of irregular action, to which my principles have been hitherto

applied. It is an instance, indeed, even more anomalous than either of those I have mentioned; inasmuch, as the child, in question, has been brought up in the bosom of civilized society, and yet exhibits all the negative phænomena of enunciative privation and ineptitude, which, in the former instances, are only accounted for, from the want of human association.

"The early history of this case (as far as I have been able to ascertain the circumstances) is as follows: Augusta (one of the daughters of a very respectable gentleman, in the neighbourhood of Glasgow) was inoculated far the small-pox, when she was only three months old. The disease, however, made its appearance with none of the mitigated symptoms which inoculation is intended to insure. It raged, on the contrary, with the utmost virulence; and disfigurement and blindness were the consequences. One of the eye-balls seems to have been completely obliterated by the disease, so that the closed and deeply sunken lids, far retiring into the socket, only mark the position where the visual organ should be. The lower part of the other orb (which is sufficiently obtrusive) appears to retain some small degree of sensibility to the

presence of light; and thro the medium of this organ, it appears, that the difference between night and day is indistinctly perceptible; but no object of vision can either be distinguished or perceived.

" In addition to this calamitous privation, the poor child had, early, the misfortune of being deprived of its mother; and from circumstances, partly arising from necessary attentions to the management of a numerous family, and partly, perhaps, from mistaken calculations of the comfort and accommodation of the child herself, she seems to have been, for a considerable time at least, resigned to the exclusive, and almost *secluded,* care of a nurse,— who, perhaps, had not all the dispositions, and cannot be expected to have had all the knowledge and reflection, which the peculiar circumstances of the nursling might require.

" One serious mistake, it is obvious, has been committed. It seems to have been the universal practice to direct and manage the unfortunate child by the sense of touch alone. No appeal seems to have been made to any of the other senses. That of hearing, in particular, seems so entirely to have been neglected, that the necessity of comprehending, and consequently of imitating, the distinctions of

enunciated sound, seems hardly to have been presented. The *guiding hand* seems, on every occasion, to have been substituted for the inviting voice. How much of the additional calamity is to be attributed to this cause, I shall not pretend to determine; but certain it is, that the poor child has attained her seventh year, without making any intelligible efforts towards the exercise of the faculty of speech.

" While I was at Glasgow, the observations I had occasion to make " on the Causes and Cure of Natural and Habitual Impediments," during my " Course of Lectures on the Science and Practice of Elocution," occasioned me to be applied to, by the father of this unfortunate child; and I accordingly visited her, in company with a medical friend, of philosophical and scientific celebrity, whose curiosity, like my own, was considerably excited by the particulars we had heard of this very extraordinary case.

" Of the dreadful ravages which the virus of the small-pox had made, it may easily be inferred, from the facts already stated, that the child presented a very lamentable spectacle. Her general health, however, did not appear to be affected. Her growth and proportions are remarkably beyond the

ordinary standard of her years; and her robust and masculine figure formed a most striking contrast to the delicate symmetry of two beautiful and diminutive sisters, the smallest of which was but two years younger than herself. Her animal spirits appeared to be high and irregular; and she was full of boisterous activity; which, sometimes, approached almost to fierceness, and, sometimes, subsided into absolute inattention, and apparent inanity. In these transitions, however, and this wildness of deportment, neither my professional friend nor myself could discover any indications, either of deficiency or derangement of the sensorial faculty, that could account for the want of articulative utterance,—even if deficiencies and derangements of that description, could be admitted as sufficient solutions of the phænomenon. The mingled boldness and precaution with which she climbed over the tables and other furniture; the skill with which she balanced herself upon the seats and backs and frames of the chairs, which she successively inverted, in all possible directions; and the address with which she recovered herself, when in danger of losing her equilibrium, conspired, with a variety of other feats and circumstances, to

preclude all idea of any other degree of imbecility, than the mere complicated privations of vision and discourse might naturally be expected to produce. Nor can any inferences be drawn that would invalidate this conclusion, from her intervals of apparent inanity: if *inanity* that can be called, which is evidently nothing more than the pause of physical exhaustion, when boisterous exertion has fatigued her muscles, or dissipated her animal spirits. Then, indeed, she seats herself upon the ground, and, swaying her head from side to side, with a sort of sinuous oscillation, begins to beat time with her left knee, while she hums, in a low and plaintive tone, a sort of imperfect tune: always, I believe, the same, though of this I cannot be certain. It is only when she is thus amusing herself, that the unfortunate Augusta appears, at all, interesting. The deformity of feature, produced by the original disease, is, probably, in more respects than one, an aggravation of the calamities of this unhappy child. Imagination has something to do, even with the best feelings of our nature; its associations mingle with the active operations of our most imperious duties; and few, indeed, are the human beings whose sympathies are so abstractedly

correct, as to require no assistance from its alliance. Such assistance, the person of this poor child is little calculated to afford; and the vehemence of her actions and gesture is not likely to counteract the impression which her appearance inevitably produces. But when, tired of jumping and tearing about, she sits herself down to murmur her inarticulate song, the mournful monotony of her action, and the expression of her voice (which, though not harmonious, is most appropriately melancholy) find their way irresistibly to the heart. And certainly, there is nothing in the whole phænomena of this melancholy employment that can justify the idea, either of physical imbecility, or derangement. The monotony of the action and the tone are indeed peculiarities: but, in these, I can discover no other indication than of the effort of a mind, contracted in its sphere of activity by physical privations, to vary, according to its narrow means, its occupations and its amusements.

"But if idiotism, or if derangement, be not the cause that has precluded this unfortunate child from the use of speech, to what other circumstance shall we attribute the privation?

"The persuasion of the family seems to be—that

this second and more aggravated calamity has resulted from the ravages of the same disease which deprived the infant of its sight. As a secondary consequence, this may, perhaps, have been the case; but, of the primary or physical operation of the virus upon any of the organs essential to oral intercourse, there is certainly not the slightest appearance. The hearing of the child, does not seem to be affected. She is, evidently, conscious to the general impressions of sound; and she even appears to be interested by particular tunes, and some of the movements of instrumental music. That the *vocal organs* are sufficiently perfect, is equally obvious, from the vociferations and noises of all kinds which she so frequently utters. The *enunciative organs* also appeared, upon inspection, to be complete in every portion of their structure. That they were so, indeed, would have been sufficiently evident, even if no such inspection had been made; for, amid the variety of unmeaning noises, with which she occasionally amuses herself, all the elements of enunciation may be distinctly heard: nor is there an individual simple sound (whether labial, lingual, palatial, nasal, or guttural) out of which, the com-

binations of verbal language should be formed, which she does not repeatedly pronounce.

" Whether from this chaos of original elements, the creations of intelligible speech will ever arise, I own I am exceedingly doubtful. It cannot be disguised, that this is one of those cases which would require much more attention than, from the nature of the circumstances, it is practicable that it should receive. Cases so completely anomalous, are only to be understood by long and minute observation; and remedies, if practicable, are only to be expected from the persevering assiduity of an intelligent superintendant, capable of suggesting, and patient enough to conduct, a long and consistent series of experiments:—a superintendant, who could descend to all the minutiæ of ministration and attendance, and who had sufficient authority over the whole household, to preclude all thwartings and interruptions of the necessary plans, either from the prejudices of ignorance, or the impatience of unseasonable doubt. All that I could do, therefore, in the present instance, was to give a few simple rules for the future regulation of the child; the principal object of which was to divert, if pos-

sible, to the sense of hearing, that internal attention, which, from the error of education, had, hitherto, been concentrated to the sense of touch alone. I had the greater reason to confide in the probability of some effect from these regulations, if they could have been observed, because, to me, at least, it was apparent, that my frequent repetitions of the *English* salutation, "How do you do?" (a salutation to which her ears had never been familiarized) had produced (during the twenty-four hours that I staid in the house on my first visit) an imitative effort, which expressed itself in an indistinct *How do?* which, it appeared to me, she applied as a sort of name, or term, associated in her mind with the impressions she had received of my distinct and personal identity. On my second visit, the same ejaculation again was uttered; yet I could not learn that any such exclamation had been observed in my absence. A circumstance, from which I drew a very different conclusion, from those which were inferred by the persons who are usually around her. I was apprehensive, however, at the time, that my regulations would never be attended to, with sufficient perseverance and precision; and, during my second visit, they were

violated, before my face, by the negligence, or the perverseness, of a domestic, who, naturally enough, despised a restriction, the tendency of which she could not comprehend. As this was, in reality, no more than I expected, my only animadversion was—never to call again.

" Such are the few and unsatisfactory particulars I am able to communicate respecting this unhappy case. Unsatisfactory, however, as they are, they add one more to the small number of facts that seem to furnish land-marks for an inquiry into the causes that facilitate, and those which preclude the developement of the faculty of speech."

The publication of this case excited some curiosity, and occasioned me several communications, and interesting conversations, with enlightened professional men; and with other persons, of a benevolent and philosophical turn of mind. Among these, a very respectable and meritorious practitioner, Mr. Harrison, of Kendal, where my family then resided, communicated to me the particulars of another, but very dissimilar case, of speechlessness; which he, afterwards, procured me an opportunity of examining. Relative to this, I also

made the following short communication to the same miscellany.

Case of a poor Man, speechless from Epilepsy and organic Imbecility.

" As the pen is in my hand, I will just mention another fact, not entirely irrelevant to the subject of my last communication. Shortly after I had transmitted to you the case of the unfortunate Augusta, an instance was mentioned to me, in the course of conversation, of a poor man, in this part of the country, who, to all effective purposes, may be regarded as speechless; but, in whom, no apparent cause of such privation could be discovered in the structure of the organs, either vocal or enunciative; and who had arrived at the age of thirty years, without any other verbal language, than a very imperfect *yes* and *no,* and two or three indistinct and monosyllabic ejaculations. As the individual, to whom this report related, resides at no great distance, I had the curiosity to visit him; but I no sooner beheld him, than I was, irresistibly, convinced—that his was a case, essentially and totally, distinct from that of the unfortunate Augusta. If, in her contour, her features and her

deportment, no marks of idiocy could be traced; in his, they were stamped with the most characteristic evidence:—The small and misproportioned scull; the dark rayless eyes, staring almost from the top of the forehead; the long prominent nose; the huge slavering mouth, and the whole line and proportions of the lower part of the head and face, so excessively too large for the upper, were indications not to be overlooked. In short, epilepsy and imbecility were written in such legible characters in his physiognomy, that every observer of nature must read them, as soon as he is seen. Nor was the conclusion, in my mind, less decisive, as to the comparative case, than as to that which was immediately under consideration. If deficiency and derangement of the sensorial or intellectual faculty, be the cause of the speechlessness of this poor man, of the similar defect, in the unfortunate Augusta, they, assuredly, are not. Never were cases more *featurally* distinct: in the form of her head and face, (mangled as the latter is) are all the lines and expressions of undeveloped capacity; in his, the total absence of every thing from which rational faculty could be presumed.

"But a practical question arises from the case

under consideration:—How far is it usual for idiocy to operate in the preclusion of the faculty of speech? That it must contract the sphere of exercise of that faculty, is, indeed, sufficiently obvious; for speech can never extend beyond the limits of memory, of perception and idea. But, that it should preclude the individual from learning and using the terms that relate to his animal wants and customary operations, does not, from such observations as I have been able to make, seem necessarily or generally to ensue.

"If any of your correspondents could furnish me with any facts that might elucidate this question, I should feel myself much obliged to them:—the more especially as the ascertainment of this point, besides its professional application, would throw considerable light upon a very interesting inquiry; namely, *How far man is indebted for the invention and exercise of the faculty of speech, to the original superiority of his intellectual powers; and, how far those intellectual powers are themselves derivable from his physical and exclusive faculty of enunciative utterance.*"

The comparison of these two cases, and of some

others, less striking, tended, still further, to rivet in my mind, the distinction between moral and physical idiocy:—or, in other words, between those cases of imbecility, or imperfection, which were to be accounted for from the non-developement or derangement of the organic faculties, and those which resulted from absolute defects of physical nature:—from deficiencies or disproportions in the organic structure.

In the chain of reasoning I had adopted, upon the occasion, I was considerably encouraged, and, in my researches, considerably assisted, by my philosophical friend, Mr. John Gough; and, urged, at once, by a sense of the importance of the inquiry, and the sanction of his coincidence, I meditated the design of a regular treatise and classification of the Causes of Idiocy, and of the phænomena by which the contra-distinctions alluded to, might be clearly and satisfactorily ascertained. Professional engagements, however, have hitherto prevented, and may, probably, for ever prevent, the full execution of my design: for this is not an age of encouragement for works of elaborate research and real practical utility. The genius of the Trade of Literature, is, necessarily, unfriendly to such pro-

ductions. That species of patronage which Dr. Johnson has, so authoritatively, panegyrized, can never offer to them the prospect of remuneration without which they cannot rationally be expected to be produced. A bookseller can give, and ought to give, no more for any work, than it is worth, as an article of trade, upon the calculation of a quick return, and a substantial profit. The man, therefore, who does not merely sit down to the compilation of a book, because a book is wanted in the market, and he has no other profitable employment for his time,—but who theorizes only because theory is thrust upon him by the necessity, or the habit of meditating on what he professionally observes,—and who submits his theory to the labour of experimental analysis, for the improvement of his professional practice, can seldom afford the sacrifice of time necessary for committing his discoveries to paper; or the still more *expensive* gratification—(for such the author who is his own publisher will generally find it) of communicating them, thro the press, to the world. So that those who have the best opportunities of making and ascertaining the validity of useful discoveries, will, pretty generally, be necessitated to suffer their science to perish

with them: or, at best, to survive them only in the imperfect remembrance of those to whom it may have been imparted, thro the accident of familiar association.

It is not to be disguised, Sir, that to these general discouragements, there are, also, to be added—particular and personal obstructions to my design. Prejudices and fears are very obstinate things; and in the treatment of Impediments of Speech, I should have been obliged to learn (even if I had met with no other opportunities of conning such a lesson) —that when a *diseased association* has once been formed, it is another labour to be added to those of Hercules, effectually to dissolve that association, and to replace it by one of order and sanity. If interested design, or simple wantonness should once have dressed up a lamb in the hide of a tiger, there are people in the world (perhaps not a few) who would never hear the bleatings of his voice again, without some degree of panic and terror. And some there are (even among those who ought to have more understanding) who, because, fourteen years ago, I was a zealous (or, if they please, an intemperate) advocate for parliamentary reform, and would not have staked the existence of Europe

in a war against the French Revolution, continue to be alarmed at my system of Elocution, and my plans for the rescue of my unhappy fellow beings from Idiocy and Eccentric Derangement. There are some who think—I ought not to notice these prejudices. But I never yet knew a prejudice put down by silent acquiescence: and I shall not disguise from you, Sir, or from the world—the proud consciousness I feel—that, when the record shall be consulted of what I have done in the paths of that profession—to which (since the relinquishment of politics) I have opened myself a way,—the rational part of mankind will unanimously exclaim (whatever they may think of former transactions)—that I ought not (on that account) to have been prevented from doing more.

The interest taken by Mr. Gough in the case of Augusta, was as strong as it was natural. Blind himself, from infancy, from the same physical cause to which the original calamity of that unfortunate child is attributable, and remembering the efforts by which he had been induced to make his remaining faculties supply his organic deficiency, he

was, at once, disposed and qualified to estimate the validity of my inductions. The following important communication was the first fruit of the interest thus inspired.

Case of a Child rendered speechless by seclusion and indulgence, and afterwards attaining the use of Speech, by being placed under new circumstances; with illustrative facts, &c. communicated by Mr. Gough.

"*Middleshaw, July* 29, 1804.

"Sir,

"I have been perusing your narrative of a girl who lost her sight when three months old, and remained dumb, in the literal sense of the word, at the unusual age of seven years. The account is interesting, to me at least; because it appears to favour opinions of my own, relating to the expansion of the intellectual powers during infancy, as well as the radical causes of idiotism.

"You will perceive from what has been said already, that I am going to submit a theory of these important phænomena to your consideration. Perhaps it will prove a matter of surprise, when you find my fundamental notions in perfect unison with the theoretic hints of your communication to the

Monthly Magazine; but such coincidences confirm an hypothesis; because truth, being a simple object, will not admit of repugnant conclusions.

"In all probability you assign the true cause of the poor child's misfortune, when you ascribe her want of speech to the negligence or ignorance of those who superintended the education of her infant years: for the germs of the intellectual powers appear to be unfolded, and the use of the bodily organs is dictated, by a species of necessity, resulting from constitutional propensities, or the modes of existence which Nature has imposed upon us. This proposition may be elucidated by facts: for man is evidently formed for society, and shows a strong partiality for the reciprocal duties and pleasures of it, in his tenderest years. Hence arises a potent motive, or necessity, which obliges him to associate with his fellow beings, the very moment he is able to recognise them; as well as to copy their manners, and to learn the use of his own organs, from imitation. Perhaps the imbecility of infancy renders the temper pliant, and prepares the mind for that degree of subsequent improvement, which characterizes the human species.

"In this point of view, the intellectual powers

may be compared to certain plants, that require the support of a neighbouring shrub, to ensure their prosperity. The pains and pleasures, the duties and interests of society constitute the highly ramified tree, to which the mind clings thro life; and for every twig of which it has a tendril in the first years of its existence. Should then an infant have the misfortune to be placed in a situation, which refuses him access to the prop of society, he must grovel in the dust, like the unsupported vine, and never arrive at perfection. Sickness, infirmity, and mutilation can do a great deal towards secluding a child from the intercourse of his species; and the mistaken care of a nurse, as well as her negligence, it is to be feared, too frequently completes the mischief, and terminates in the awful catastrophe of idiotism. Nothing is more to be dreaded in the education of an infirm or mutilated infant, than injudicious tenderness, or a premature persuasion, that he is incapable of improvement. Either of these mistakes is almost certain of laying the foundation of mental imbecility; by permitting him to rest satisfied with the exercise of those faculties only, which respect his own person. A plan of tuition of a very different aspect ought to

be pursued in such a case; his attention should be diverted from himself to society, and social appetites ought to be created in him. These are the causes, that can alone compel him to an exertion of his latent powers; an attempt, which, in all likelihood, he will never make, as long as his wants are supplied without an effort on his own part, and all his conceptions are merely of a selfish nature.

"I remember an instance of a girl, who afforded a striking example of a faulty education. She had been left, in early infancy, almost entirely to the care of an aged couple; who allowed her to signify her wants by signs, without obliging her to have recourse to words. This folly (for it deserves no better name) had its necessary consequences: the girl remained destitute of speech at the age of five years; although she could form most of the elementary sounds composing the English language. Her fortune, however, eventually surpassed that of your Augusta; for she was sent to the knitting-school, which is a common receptacle for the poor children of Kendal. Here she became a member of a society, which would not or could not understand her gestures. Another motive, in addition to this difficulty, compelled her to the proper exer-

cise of her vocal organs: she began to relish the pursuits, as well as to copy the manners, of her companions. These circumstances, joined to the ridicule of her new friends, showed her the necessity of conversation; and she learned to converse accordingly.

"The facts, that have been related above, show what mischief may be done to the faculties by an improper education; and how easily the injury is corrected by a fortunate concurrence of moral causes. The inference resulting from the premises, appears to be evident; namely, that abstraction from society, or a total indifference to human affairs, during infancy, will unavoidably terminate in idiotism; which habit will confirm, unless the propensity to negligence be counteracted in time.

"Mr. White has perpetuated the memory of an idiot (in his Natural History of Selborne) whose conduct proves that this worst of human evils does not spring, in all cases, from want of mental energy. The infatuated boy, described by this pleasing author, was in the habit of sleeping away the winter in the chimney corner; regardless of the family, and all its interests. But his season of action returned with the spring: when he sallied forth,

with no better purpose than that of hunting bees and wasps; which he caught with surprising address, disarmed them with his naked hands, and sucked their bodies. Nay, the ungovernable appetite of this youth for honey, frequently impelled him into the gardens of his neighbours, with a view to disturb the bees, by tapping at the hives; on which occasions, he seized the inhabitants, and devoured them for their honey bags.

"Was there not a time, when the activity and ingenuity of this young idiot might have been diverted to nobler designs? was it not, once, possible to prevail with him, to cultivate commerce, agriculture, or science with the same degree of ardour, which he manifested in the persecution of these armed insects? But taste is every thing, with man; and when the pursuits of a child influence him to quit society for solitary enjoyment, he is in danger of falling into idiotism.

"Nothing can be more fatal to the future prospects of an infant, than the limited application of his powers to a single object or pursuit. Being a stranger in the world, it is his business to examine every thing; for, if the morning of life be spent in

inattentive indolence, the day of his sublunary existence may be expected to pass away in stupidity.

"In one of my rambles through this county, in search of natural curiosities, I met with a moral phænomenon, illustrative of the preceding maxim. This was a man between thirty and forty years old, who was speechless, and dressed in petticoats. He possessed all his senses; his frame was robust, his gait firm, and his voice masculine. Notwithstanding these accomplishments, he was the mere shell of a man; totally devoid of intellect. His whole business consisted in following his mother, from place to place; whose steps he attended with the assiduity of a shadow. All his attention was directed to this aged person; whose hand had fed him from the hour of his birth to that moment; and whose care to anticipate his wants did not appear to be abated by time. His constitution had been attacked by strong convulsions at an early period; and though his limbs and senses recovered from the shock, his mind became stationary.

"I will not venture to assign the cause of this melancholy event; but there is too much reason to suspect, that he had been reduced by injudicious

tenderness, to the state of a parasitical being, not less dependant on parental protection, than the Misletoe is on the Oak, that nourishes it. Before this time, I had frequently attempted in vain, to define the attributes due to the sleepy Gods of Epicurus; but, after contemplating this man of abstraction, I did not hesitate to honour him with the encomium, which Lucretius bestows on the divine nature:

Ipsa suis pollens opibus, nihil indiga nostri,
Nec bene promeritis capitur, nec tangitur irâ.

Nought here below, nought in our power it needs;
Ne'er smiles at good, ne'er frowns at wicked deeds.

CREECH.

"It would be folly to enter into a disquisition relating to the divine idiots of the Greek Philosopher, when I have other observations remaining, apparently of greater moment. The concurrent privation of Sight and Hearing would produce a degree of idiotism; which could not be reclaimed; because of the impossibility of exciting imitation in a person so circumstanced. But I have the pleasure to say—that senses imperfect in the aggregate, do not, in certain cases, seclude a human being from

his species. A man died, in Kendal, not more than two years ago; who had been half paralysed, at an early period, in almost every sense and limb; but he was not an idiot, otherwise than in appearance: for he attached himself to society; and necessity compelled him to accommodate the remains of his faculties to the narrow scale of his circumstances. This fortunate conduct made him an useful member of the community; which he served diligently, in the performance of the lowest offices; never refusing a petty employment, that promised emolument. He conducted himself with a great deal of ill-temper towards children; by whom he was perpetually teased; at the same time he paid a kind of awkward courtesy to those who treated him with kindness; for gratitude was a prominent feature in his character. If the principles of the preceding theory be just, they inspire us with a rational hope, that idiotism may be prevented by judicious treatment. In fact, the improbability of the tale of Cymon and Iphigenia does not consist in the conversion of an idiot into a hero; tho we feel some difficulty in conceiving how such a being could fall in love. Notwithstanding this objection, circumstances have produced wonderful revolutions

in besotted minds, if any credit be due to Ancient History. I must now conclude with a wish, that it may be your study to give practical importance to the theoretic ideas, which have occurred to you, as well as the author of this.

"JOHN GOUGH."

Mr. Gough had an eye, perhaps, in the concluding paragraph, upon the story of the dumb son of Crœsus. An anecdote, which, tho it is impossible to give credit to it, in its literal extent, may, perhaps, have had some foundation. Many a convulsive stammerer will, occasionally, under the influence of powerful impression, give clear and distinct utterance to some short exclamatory sentence. Even the unfortunate and speechless savage of Aveyron, could articulate *La-la,* in the presence of an attractive object, who nearly bore that name; and the son of Crœsus was perhaps a stammerer, who, during the momentary energy, excited by the danger of his father, gave an unpremeditated demonstration—that he might, under proper management, have been excited to the full developement of the faculty of speech.

A few months after the receipt of the above communication, I was favoured by the same gentleman with the following

Case of moral Idiocy, &c.

" Sir, *Middleshaw, Oct. 3,* 1804.

" I forgot to mention, in the course of our conversation respecting Idiotism, a remarkable female idiot, who died but a few days ago, in Kendal. An intelligent friend has procured for me several facts relating to this woman, by inquiry from her sister. His information is just come to hand, and the following is the substance of it, with certain remarks of my own.

" M. Barker was the eldest child of Thomas Barker, many years sexton of the parish of Kendal. About the time she began to walk, her parents observed in her a love of solitude; which she indicated by a propensity for retiring into by corners. A gentleman of the faculty, being consulted, after observing her actions, pronounced her to be an idiot, and therefore incurable. I will not pretend to say how far this sentence, which was pronounced on the child, influenced the future fortune of the woman; there are circumstances, however, which

argue strongly, that her friends had no reason to impute the mental imbecility of their offspring to the caprice or negligence of Nature. She was a healthy infant; her limbs, and particularly her head, were no way misformed. She laboured under no bodily infirmity, except the tooth-ache, and a severe attack of a fever, in her thirtieth year.

" Having given you this short account of her physical condition, I come in the next place to relate what my friend has collected relative to her moral character; which her parents considered to be natural, probably on the authority of the physician: for the qualities of her constitution, which have been already described, did not at all favour the opinion. But before I enter upon this part of the account, it will be proper to mention, that her sight and hearing were good, and her other senses were supposed to be perfect.

" Her employment consisted wholly in collecting dust and small stones in the churchyard, which she let fall through her fingers again, either on the ground or into her apron. When the weather would not permit her to pursue this favourite employment in the open air, she repaired to the fireside, where the fragments of the fuel and the ashes

supplied a good substitute for pebbles and earth. Through life she always appeared to be the happiest when alone, and constantly sought the most retired parts of the churchyard, to avoid the intrusion of children and passengers. So great was the abstraction of this solitary being, that she showed not the least attachment to any person living; nor did the pleasures, misfortunes, or sorrows of her friends give her the least concern. My friend has furnished me with a striking proof of her apathy in this respect. Her aged father was unfortunately burned in his bed by her mother, who was almost as old and infirm as her husband; this awful catastrophe did not at all affect their idiot daughter.

"Tho her hearing was perfect, she never spoke in her life; at which I do not wonder much: for a person who has no business with society, has no need of conversation; and *we have no reason to suppose that imitation will compel a child to learn an art for which he has no use, and in which he feels not any interest.* This proposition is demonstrated by the conduct of those men who have been accustomed to hear songs and music almost every day, but have never acquired the habit of producing melody, of practising the notes of the gamut

with their own vocal organs. Perhaps imitation is not, properly speaking, a faculty of human nature, but a motive resulting from the connection which Education obliges man to form with society: if, then, accident prevent an individual from cultivating this salutary connection, he must remain destitute of that motive which brings him, by a kind of necessity, to the form and habits of a social being.

" M. Barker, whom I seem to forget at present, was always fed by the hands of her friends. Oat bread was her favourite food; and, as oft as she could procure it herself, she crammed a quantity of it into her mouth, which it was necessary to remove by force, to prevent suffocation. Her friends, also, dressed her; and, on these occasions, she exhibited a symptom of knowledge which is not uncommon with infants not more than twelve or thirteen months old; for she would have held out her arms that her gown and other clothes might be put on with the greater ease. My friend has also preserved another proof of her recollection. Not long before her death, her aged mother, who was sick in bed, attempted to raise herself by help of her daughter's chair, which stood near her; and

overturned it, and the idiot in it, by the effort. This accident terrified the poor creature so much, that she could never afterwards be prevailed upon to sit by the side of the bed.

" She had no fear of remaining alone in a dark place; but expressed great apprehension upon being removed from one place to another, in the night time, without a candle. The sight of the river terrified her much, but she had not the least dread of fire; the reason of this is not very apparent. It might arise from the former being a strange, and the latter a familiar object; but perhaps some fact in her history is unknown to me, which would afford a better explanation of her aversion to running water.

" A being so secluded from society may be reasonably supposed to have passed her life in a state of great equanimity; and I am accordingly informed, that she enjoyed an uniformity of temper, which was but rarely ruffled, to the day of her death, which happened in the year 1801, and the 61st of her age.

" The preceding narrative contains all the facts, which my friend has transmitted to me, relating to M. Barker. Her history affords a surprising ex-

ample of total inattention to those affairs and pursuits which engage the minds and form the dispositions of the bulk of mankind. We may ask, What could lead her into such a line of conduct? seeing her senses were perfect, and she enjoyed the common opportunities to learn. The question cannot be satisfactorily answered, for want of more minute particulars. Perhaps the characters, the opinions, and the conduct of the parents, in respect to her, would have thrown great light on this interesting inquiry.

"My narrative, however, has its use, though it is defective. The philosopher, who happens to contemplate a character of this description, in whom he can find no physical imperfection, will perceive many reasons which will induce him to suspect, that this species of imbecility ought not to be attributed to Nature, but to moral causes. The natural fool differs, in many respects, from the moral idiot. His capacity is limited by some imperfection in his organs; but he feels an attachment to society; and this motive obliges him to cultivate his mutilated talents. The two characters ought, therefore, to be distinguished by appropriate names; and the English language will admit of the distinction.

The man who is prevented from acquiring knowledge by a constitutional defect, may be called a natural: on the other hand, the being who neglects to join himself to society, or has never been induced to join in social exertion, may be denoted by the appellation of a moral idiot. This classification may prove of use to those who are desirous of investigating the subject; for in considering the case of a particular idiot, it will be necessary, in the first place, to determine whether he possesses the characteristics of a natural or of a moral idiocy; and this may be learned with some degree of probability, both from his manners and his conformation. If he is attached to society, but cannot join in the exercise of the social functions, I should not hesitate to pronounce him a natural; on the other hand, if all his views be confined to his own person, I should feel little scruple to call him a moral idiot—provided he was known to possess the full use of his corporeal senses.

"JOHN GOUGH."

In the general reasoning of Mr. Gough, upon these cases, I dare say, Sir, you will think with me,

—that there is sufficient reason for agreeing: particularly in that part which relates to the non-efficiency of the mere principle of imitation. It is true, indeed, that imitation to a certain extent, that is to say, so far as it is stimulated or acted upon by some feeling of desire or necessity, may, in the generality of instances, be relied upon; and, the habit once formed,—it seems, in many respects, to operate upon the youthful organs, even without the aid of consciousness. But, after all, it will be found, upon examination, that Imitation, like every other species of exertion, requires the stimulus of motive; and, as it is obvious (from whatever cause) that different individuals are, from the first, and throughout the whole of their lives, susceptible, in different degrees, to the influence of very different kinds of stimuli; and that, for excitement to the same actions, very different motives must, therefore, be presented. It follows, of course, that a very important part of the Science of Education, in general,—and, in cases of tardy developement and apparent ineptitude of any of the faculties, in particular, must consist in discovering and applying, in every instance, the kind of stimuli, most calculated for effective operation. But there are certain

general necessities, arising out of the mere animal appetites, which ought never to be overlooked; and which, properly managed, may be made instrumental (even in cases the most unfavourable) to a considerable degree, at least, if not to the perfect developement of several of the organic faculties. But, if the blind child be to have its food, regularly and silently put into its mouth, on the first indication, or suspicion, of want,—if the little fondling be to sit, for ever, on the solitary lap, and have all its wants anticipated,—if the honey is to be procured by the mute effort of solitary ingenuity, instead of being socially presented, as a motive for some proper species of exertion, without which it is not to be procured,—what wonder if the requisite imitations never be excited, and if what was, at first, mere partial ineptitude, or partial deficiency of organic structure, be matured into speechlessness and Moral Idiocy? I am afraid that many an indulgent mamma (in every class of society, from the lowest to the highest,) might make a feeling application of the general reasoning of this paragraph; and recollect how often, by an idle indulgence of every appetite, and mischievous anticipation of every want, she has diminished the motives,

and precluded the opportunities for the developement of the organic and moral faculties of her darling:—nay, how much she may have contributed to that partial derangement, or intellectual perturbation, which, tho it doom not its victim absolutely to a strawbed and a strait waistcoat, beclouds, at once, the intellect and the happiness of all his future days.

You will perceive, Sir, that there is nothing in this system that runs counter to the admission of serious original differences of facility and aptitude for developement, in the organic, moral and intellectual faculties of different individuals. I not only admit—that there are such differences; but the very jut and object of my disquisition, is—the necessity of a systematic observance of such differences, and of a mode of management applicable to them, in all their varieties. I admit, also, that these differences must, frequently, be assigned to what maybe called occult causes—to causes that lie not only beyond the reach of superficial observation, but (in our present state of knowledge) beyond the reach, also, of scientific research. But, at the same time, I contend, Sir, that, as it seems

to have been demonstrated, by innumerable facts, not only of human, but also of comparative anatomy, that there is a certain conformation, or proportion, that seems, almost universally, associated with certain portions or degrees of intellectual capability; while other modes of conformation, or, if you please, of disproportion, are universally indicative of the want of such capability; we ought not, in any case, where the pravity of desirable conformation is not indisputable and conspicuous, hastily to conclude, that any apparent ineptitude or deficiency (whether it be of speech, or of any other faculty) is to be regarded as assignable to constitutional, or irremovable causes, and beyond the reach of educational melioration.

Some facts collected, upon very good authority, in the neighbourhood of Carlisle, and some observations I had, there, an opportunity of making, perhaps, may furnish further landmarks, for the establishment of those discriminations which should be the guides of practice in such cases.

Mr. James, a respectable medical practitioner of that city, related to me, in a very interesting conversation, the following

Case of Two Children rendered Speechless to a very protracted Age, by Habit and Imitation.

The late Rev. Mr. Bird, a clergyman in that part of the country, had two sons, who were twins. He had, also, residing with him, a father, who was deaf and dumb. The fondness of the grandfather occasioned the infants to be much with him: and, from the necessities arising out of this intercourse, the twins were early initiated into the language of signs, in which they became prematurely expert. But having learned one sort of language, to which every body paid a willing and prompt attention, it was observed—that they made no efforts towards acquiring another; and when they were between three and four years of age, neither of them could speak at all. The father, accordingly, became alarmed; and experiments were tried upon their hearing, which was found to be sufficiently perfect. The cause of their speechlessness was, therefore, apparent; and Mr. B. had the good sense and resolution to remove the cause, by prohibiting, entirely, the language of signs in the presence of his children, and resolutely insisting—that their signs should not be attended to. The experiment, regularly followed up, at length suc-

ceeded; and the children both came to speak as distinctly and clearly as other children do. One of them had died about a year before the time of my visit to Carlisle, the other was then about thirteen; pursuing his studies, in a classical seminary; and I understood him to be possessed of a very clear enunciation, and to be regarded as a lad of some promise.

If the relation of this case gave additional confirmation to my theory—that Speechlessness, when neither resulting from idiocy nor deafness, is, in reality, a malady of non-developement of faculty, assignable to educational causes,—or, in other words, to negligence or mistaken management, the impression was not at all weakened, by another case, to a personal acquaintance with which I was introduced by this same gentleman.

Case of permanent Speechlessness from temporary Deafness.

J. I—, then five years of age, only son of Mr. I. of the Coffee-House, Carlisle, when he was about thirteen months old (at which time he had only begun to make use of the primary monosyllables that, from the facility of their utterance, have

come, by universal consent, to indicate parental relationship) was visited by a complication of maladies—particularly by the influenza, which deprived him of the sense of hearing. Nor did he, from that time, betray any symptom of the consciousness of sound, till he was between three and four years old; when, a barrel organ playing in the street, he was obviously affected to attention and pleasure; which he indicated by imitating some of the sounds with his mouth. He had continued ever since to be delighted with such music as came in his way; to be attracted by the drum and fife; but much more sensibly interested by the military band.

These particulars I collected in conversation with his family, and in his presence. I myself observed that he was obviously sensible to the difference of voices, and to the direction from which any voice proceeded:—for when he was standing at his mother's knee, between Mr. J. and myself, he turned round alternately to him and to me, as one or the other of us was speaking. The family of the child, however, were firmly riveted in the strange persuasion—that tho he has an ear for sounds, he has none for the enunciation of speech; nor could I find that any experiments had been tried, or that

there was the least disposition for trying any, to ascertain—how far his susceptibility to the varieties of musical sound proceeded. All that could be collected on the subject, was only the result of casual observation, and of the effect of such impressions as had been accidentally produced.

The boy was a remarkably fine child—well made—well grown, and active; with an eye quick, intelligent and observant; and he had as fine a contour as Lavater himself could have wished to look upon. All his organs of voice and enunciation were evidently perfect; tho, in point of language, he had proceeded no further than when his malady first assailed him, in his thirteenth month.

"This case" (I quote from the memoranda in my note book—made upon the spot, while the whole phænomena and circumstances were fresh in my remembrance.)—"This case appears to me, to be a plain one. The temporary necessity resulting from two years of deafness, having induced a habit, among all around him, to direct him, entirely, by signs and the sense of touch, produced in him, also, the imitative habit of expressing his wants by the same means; and the sense of hearing having been so long suspended, all attention to the cultivation of the organs of that sense has been

abandoned, from an impression (and such impressions are, in general, too easily adopted) that every thing that related to that faculty was hopeless and irretrievable. Thus, the child not having either the ordinary excitements to vocal imitation, or the ordinary inducements of necessity for learning the use of the organs of speech, the enunciative faculties remain undeveloped. A pull by the coat, the apron, or the arm, expressed his importunity:—and that expression is always attended to. A sign with his hand, or a shake of his head, makes known the object of his wish;—if injudicious solicitude do not even anticipate his desire. A stamp with his foot, or the ejaculation "boy," or "baw!" obtains him the attention he wishes, when those to whom it is addressed, are out of his reach, or looking another way; and I observed, also, that he was not at all backward in laying the full weight of his hand on any person whom he thought not sufficiently attentive to his commands."

The house is well frequented by people of the first consequence; some of whom, it seems, have undertaken to provide for the child, at the Deaf and Dumb School. The project, accordingly, I understood, was to abandon his sense of hearing,

as altogether hopeless, and send him, as soon as he was old enough, to what I should regard, for his particular case, as the most unfit and mischievous situation he could possibly be placed in. At any rate, it appeared to me, that as he was yet not old enough for such consignment, in the intermediate time, something else ought to be attempted ; and I strenuously recommended, that, at any rate, he should be removed immediately from home, and from the intercourse of all those who would be likely, so promptly, to understand his signs and inarticulate exclamations. The project I most particularly recommended (as there was then no Institution, or existing arrangement for professional superintendence, adapted to his particular case) was to place him at some distant school, where there were many boys of his own age; and among whom he would not only be induced, but compelled, to make some effort for the developement of his *neglected,* for I cannot yet consider it as an *extinguished* faculty. I backed my recommendation, by relating to his family the parallel case communicated by Mr. Gough. The medical gentleman who accompanied me, and, also, Dr. James, a physician in Carlisle, coincided with me in the opinion I had

formed; and undertook to enforce my advice: with what success, however, I know not:—for want of leisure has prevented me from keeping up the proffered correspondence, not only in that but in many an interesting direction.

Dr. James, also, brought to my apartments, for the purpose of further elucidation and conference, an unfortunate girl; the circumstances and phænomena of whose affliction will sufficiently contradistinguish her case from the one already narrated.

Case of Privation of Speech from Epilepsy.

Elizabeth Bell, aged ten years, daughter of Mr. Bell, farmer, at Mellgard, about seven miles from Carlisle, in the road from Penrith, till about the end of her eighth year, possessed all the customary faculties of children:—spoke fluently, was alert and docile, and enjoyed, apparently, a good state of constitution. About that time, she began to be afflicted with fits; which appear to have been epileptic. At first, they occurred but rarely: there might, probably, be the best part of a month, or more, between the first and second. They soon, however, became very frequent;—so that she had, often, fourteen or fifteen in a night; and

their occurrence became habitual; scarcely ever failing to visit her every night. It was only in her sleep that they attacked her; and, generally, towards the morning. In process of time, she became inert and indocile; and gradually lost her speech: so that, during the last six months, she had never been heard to utter any thing, but *yes* and *no* and *mammy*—(so she called her grandmother,—who, together with her father, came with her to me:) and this, but imperfectly. Her fits did not last more than a minute or two, at a time; and they left no disposition to turbulence or outrage behind them. She was perfectly harmless—otherwise than not having the sense to keep herself from mischief. When her faculties began to fail, she fell into the habit of swallowing, with the greatest avidity, every improper thing she could grapple; and, in this way, devoured, at different times, a great number of pins. She would wander from home, and walk backwards and forwards, for hours, till she was ready to drop; or would go into any house that was in her way, without knowing any difference between it and her own. She had been some time, under the care of Dr. James,—who, about a fortnight before I saw her, among other

applications, had tried the effect of powerful doses of calomel. Some effect seemed to have been produced by these; as, during the whole of the then preceding week, she had been free from fits; and, at the time I am speaking of, had not more than two in a night; and, during the last two or three days, she seemed to have had more feeling and consciousness than for some considerable time. During the preceding week, she had been occasionally seized with immoderate fits of laughter.

The child was large and full grown. All the lower portions, however, both of the face and body, appeared to be larger, and more bulky than the upper. The head was not well formed: the lower part of the face being over heavy and prominent, in proportion to the upper. The chin hung, and the mouth was glouting and slavering. The face was fleshy and pallid; the eyes (of light blue) were large, staring and rayless; the skull had the appearance of being deprest; and there was very little tuberance behind. The contour, however, was not, like that of the poor man whom I examined in company with Mr. Harrison,—that of original idiotism: tho the proper enlargement of the brain, and, consequently, that of the skull,

(probably from the time when the attacks of epilepsy first came on,) does not seem to have taken place. The complexion and the physiognomy, altogether, and the disproportioned enlargement of the lower members, in part, reminded me, of some other melancholy cases I had witnessed of the fatal operations of early epilepsy.

The child seemed very little attentive to what was said; and was, of course, becoming less and less so, from the habit her father and grandmother had of holding her, perpetually, either upon or between their knees, guiding and moving her about by the hand, feeding her, like an infant, and ministering officiously to her helplessness. She glared about, and fixed her eyes upon those who surrounded her, with a mingled look of frowning sullenness and staring vacancy; or whirled slowly around, with little variety of motion; or balanced herself, from side to side, with a restless pendulation of the head. Whatever she laid hold of, she put to her mouth, and wetted it with her saliva: even her father's watch, which he desired her to put to her ear, she used in this manner; and would not even permit either that or Dr. James's to be put against the organ of hearing. She seemed, indeed, to be un-

willing to have that sense awakened; as her father informed me—that, when a cart or coach was passing by, she would clap her hands against her ears, and hold them there, pressed very tightly, for some time. Yet, when I spoke to her in a strong, firm, cheerful voice, it seemed to awaken her attention, more than any thing else had done; and by reiterated invitation, I prevailed upon her, without guidance or assistance, to come to me, and shake hands; tho she had done nothing, but by pushing and leading, under the direction of her father and grandame.

From something that occurred in conversation, I thought it necessary to be very emphatic in my directions—that no blows or severity, or unnecessary restraint should be inflicted upon her, under any pretence whatever;—that, as much as possible, they should endeavour to influence her by only speaking to her; and should leave her to do every thing for herself, that she could possibly do. Beyond this, and regulations of this description, I considered it—(if a case of any hope, at all) to be one for Medical, rather than Elocutionary treatment; and I have introduced it here, not so much for the purpose of suggesting any mode of manage-

ment, as to shew how strongly cases of this description are generally discriminated, in their phænomena, from those that belong to the physician of the mind. It is for the same reason, that I subjoin the following interesting

Case of general Disorganization of the Senses; from the Influence of the same Disease: communicated, also, by Dr. James; and which had been, for some time, under the superintendence of Mr. Bradley, of Carlisle:

"A girl of about thirteen—daughter of a farmer in the West Holmes, being seized with an epileptic fit, lost thereby, for a while, all her faculties—of sight, of speech, and of hearing. After some time, however, the faculties progressively returned; first her sight, then her speech (though in an imperfect way;)—then her hearing returned, but her speech again departed. After another interval, she again recovered her speech, and her faculty of sight departed once more; and, in this way, did all her faculties continue to come and go, and alternate, till some little time before the period at which the narrative was communicated to me; when she had retained them altogether, in a tolerable state of

perfection, for a month or two together. Latterly, however, she had been seized again with her fits, and lost again her several faculties; though not so absolutely as before, or for so long a time. The girl was well proportioned, and had appeared to be a healthy child, till these fits occurred; and no reason of terror or violence can be assigned for the sudden change."

In cases like this, it is evident that the suspension,—as, in others, it may be equally conspicuous that the non-developement of the faculties and functions of the organs of sense, is, purely, the effect of physical and constitutional causes; and tho consequences may, sometimes, remain, after the disease is eradicated, that may require another mode of treatment,—medicine must perform its part, before any thing else can be done; or before it can be ascertained whether any thing more is requisite.

Perhaps the sketch of discriminative cases would have been more complete, if I had taken notes, at the time, of another case of speechlessness, upon which I was consulted in the summer of the year 1806—after the establishment of my Institution. But as that

precaution was not taken, I can only speak of it from memory. The child I refer to, was son of a respectable gentleman in the neighbourhood of Rochester; and, if I recollect rightly, eight or nine years old; tho, in stature and in strength, still a helpless infant;—incapable of walking, and almost of standing, even with a chair to hold by. The mere skull, I think, was not particularly ill-formed; but the lower part of the face was immeasurably out of proportion; and the mouth had an appearance that was idiotic. The body was, to the full, as disproportioned as the head. It was almost conical—small at the top, and enormously large below—like that of the kangaroo; only short and squab. The weight—was, even for the bulk, enormous. The lower extremities were small and shrivelled—covered with a sort of scale or scurf, and neither having the appearance, nor evincing the sensibility of animal life. The sense of hearing did not appear deficient; neither did there appear to be any particular defect in the structure of the organs of speech; yet his vocal efforts, were only such as might be expected from an infant of five or six months old; and, if his physiognomy (which had an appearance even older than should belong to his

reported age) had not contradicted the impression, his whole deportment might have been considered as equally infantile.

Upon other constitutional indications, detailed by the family, I shall not dwell; they would lead me out of my province. Suffice it to say—that this was a case which, if I had been a medical man, I should have thought a fit object for medical experiment; and in which, if I had been the parent of the child, I would certainly have had some medical experiment tried: for no consequence that could have resulted, even from mistake or indiscretion, could have been more calamitous, to the child itself, than a continuance of the miserable state in which it existed. I scrupled not to suggest this opinion to the family, giving it as my decided opinion—that, altho there did not appear to be any thing in the mere construction or state of the organs, that should preclude the exercise of speech, unless some such experiments, under proper medical direction, could first be tried, and the constitution could be relieved from that oppression that seemed to confound, at once, the corporal and the mental powers,—it was perfectly useless for me to give any directions relative to the developement of the powers

of those organs, or the excitement of those faculties that had been the principal objects of my attention.

The instances I have selected for this detail, are marked, I trust, Sir, with features sufficiently distinct, to exemplify, to a certain extent, the line of discrimination I am desirous of pointing out, between cases merely physical—(that is to say, of absolute constitutional defect, organic imperfection and disease)—and those in which, from a complication of mental and moral causes, the organic faculties have either been perverted, or remain undeveloped; and I hope, my dear Sir! to have credit, at least, from your kindness and candour, for being actuated more by the zeal of science, than the presumption of enthusiasm, when I, strenuously, contend—that no individual ought ever to be regarded as included in the former class, where the indications are not of that clear and unambiguous description which would immediately associate them, by obvious physical phænomena, with the idiotic, the imperfectly organized, or the diseased. Where such phænomena do not actually exist, even mental imbecility, and even some descriptions of mental

derangement, will be found, upon analysis, ascribable to moral causes; and, upon experiment, to be capable of moral remedy.

My illustration of this theory would be more perfect, if I could feel myself at liberty to state one case, in particular, of clear and palpable Amentia, which has fallen under my *private treatment*, in the metropolis; and, in which, it was evident to me, upon the first appearance, and after very little inquiry, that certain educational causes, conspiring with certain constitutional predispositions, had occasioned, partially—a non-developement, and, partially—a perversion of the animal and mental energies; and, in which, the imperfection of speech, was a symptom and consequence only (tho there was, indeed, some little mal-conformation of the mouth) of the want of habitual attention, and of the non-developement of the connective and inductive faculties of the mind:—a case in which I have happily succeeded, not only in superinducing a completely intelligible and tolerably perfect utterance, but in expanding and methodizing, to a considerable degree, the dormant powers of intellect. But tho the particular object of this experiment cannot be decorously identified, in so public

an address as this is intended to be;—to you, my dear Sir, in private confidence, I shall be happy to enter into every explanation, that may further elucidate the subject of that distinction I am so anxious to establish, between physical and inevitable, and contingent and remediable, imbecility and defect; or that may demonstrate the grounds upon which, in a recent number of that Miscellany which has been my usual channel of communication, I thus concluded my correspondence on the treatment of Impediments and cases of Amentia.

———" Altho I have devoted a considerable portion of my attention to cases of amentia,—that is to say, to those cases in which, from the neglects or accidents of early education, the senses have not properly been developed, or the connective faculty of the mind has not been called into action, I have thought it necessary to preclude," from domestication in my Institution, " every case that appeared to have any approximation to the idiotic, the paralytic, or the inane. To " those unhappy persons," however, whom the correspondent alluded to in my former communications, and many others, I believe, are disposed to regard, as " incurably dumb, (that

" is, who want, or are defective in the organs, that " produce articulative sound,") I have (even in my Institution) no objection. I reject, altogether, as far as the organization of the mouth is concerned, all distinction of curable and incurable impediments: for I know how far human ingenuity can go, in supplying the deficiencies of organic structure; and I know, also, by experience, how far one organ can be trained, to supply the deficiences, and perform the functions of another. Even without the application of artificial palates, those who are deficient in that organ, may obtain a distinct and intelligible, tho not a tunable, or agreeable utterance. In short, let there be but industry, intellect, sight and hearing in the pupil, (even sight, perhaps, may be dispensed with) and the professor, who really understands his science, need never despair of superadding the power of fluent speech.

" Neither, in those cases, wherein apparent ineptitude, or early excentricity, give reason to apprehend a tendency to idiotism, or derangement, should the object be hastily abandoned. Observation and experiment have sufficiently convinced

me—that (notwithstanding the opinions of many physical inquirers,) such early indications, as well as the calamity of speechlessness, are frequently as referable to educational and moral, as to physical and irresistible causes: in other words, that there is an idiocy, a derangement, and a speechlessness, of habit, non-developement, and mistake; and which are, therefore, capable of palliation, at least, if not of absolute remedy: as well as of organic malconformation, and constitutional infirmity. Perhaps it would not be saying too much, if I were to affirm—that imbecility, at least, if not absolute idiocy, as well as some species of derangement, are as frequently the results of moral causes, early acting upon the infant organs, as of organic or constitutional causes acting upon the mind.

"With the indications of this distinction, I have some reason to believe, that I am not entirely unacquainted; and it has been a part of my study, during several recent years, to devise and apply such modes of regulation, of stimulus, and restriction, as may be likely, in cases of the former description, to remedy, or rather to avert, the calamity: not indeed in my Institution, for that would

be inconsistent with my other arrangements; (which have reference to the highest accomplishments of intellect and of polished life, as well as to the removal of defects of utterance!) but by private superintendence and direction of the education of the party.

" Cases of amentia, indeed, (unless a separate and well constituted establishment, upon the most liberal plan, could be provided for their reception) especially " where the appearances of imbecility are marked, and conspicuous, are most conveniently superintended in the private residence of the family: at least, if there be, in such family, any judicious individual who can be depended on, to enforce the regulations of the professor, report to him the results of every experiment, and act implicitly by his direction; and, under such circumstances, I have seen enough of the progress of developement, in faculties apparently the most inert, or most unpromising, to be confident—that many a human being has been consigned to speechless inanity, that might have been trained, at least, to a respectable mediocrity of mind and faculty; and that, in many instances, what, in early childhood was only habitual ineptitude, or cherished excentri-

city, has been suffered to mature itself into drivelling idiotism, and mental disorganization."

Thus, my dear Sir, have I endeavoured, as far as time and opportunity would permit, to submit to your attention, my views upon this important subject:—or, rather, to throw together, at such intervals as numerous avocations would permit, a few loose suggestions and historical sketches, upon a topic, which I flatter myself you will agree is worthy of a much more elaborate and methodical investigation.

It was my intention to have subjoined (in the Appendix)—together with the further communication from my friend Mr. Gough, on the subject of Cretinage, and the few essays on subjects of Impediments, and the general principles of Elocution, therein reprinted (from the Monthly Magazine, and the Medical and Physical Journal,) such other miscellaneous essays on interesting parts of the science, as lay in a state of partial preparation, among my papers, or in my note-book. But time presses; and failing eyes, and exhausted spirits (the fruits of many a toil and many a care) call for relaxation and forbearance.

What I have already done, has been principally accomplished in short snatches, and at intervals that ought to have been devoted to social consolation and repose: for the laborious profession I have undertaken, and the system upon which I pursue it, afford but few intervals for any other than the routine of professional exertion. This is, indeed, one of the reasons why I have chosen epistolary communication as the vehicle of my thoughts: hoping that the negligences and inaccuracies inevitable to hasty and interrupted composition, may meet with a degree of indulgence, in such a form, which could not, and ought not to be extended to a didactic treatise, or a professed scientific disquisition.

For my singling you out as the particular object of this address, the world will readily perceive one of my motives—the hope of rendering your respected name and eminent celebrity, a medium of attraction for professional and public attention to the nature of my undertaking. But besides this obvious motive, I have another, also,—that of having an opportunity of publicly acknowledging the many kindnesses, which, during five-and-twenty

years of my eventful life, have been heaped by you and by your family, on,

Dear Sir,

Your obliged and faithful friend,

JOHN THELWALL.

Institution, &c. Bedford-Place, Russell-Square,
4th Dec. 1809.

P. S. The interesting case you have done me the honour of referring to me, since this letter has been committed to the press, is one that might tend, in a considerable degree, to illustrate the series of distinctions I wish to establish; and which, under proper regulations, might (if I am not very much mistaken) furnish the materials of a practical demonstration of the principles upon which those distinctions are rested. I subjoin, therefore, a copy of the written opinion—which I delivered, to the friend of the young lady in question, for the purpose of being transmitted to those who are naturally most interested in the event. The case will, to you, Sir, require no further comment; and, to the world, more particular explanations might, perhaps, be

superfluous; or, at any rate, indecorous. The opinion, itself, I believe, recites all the particulars that are necessary for the purposes of practical induction.

Opinion on a Case of Defective Utterance, from partial Deafness, and supposed Deficiency of general Faculty.—Age 16.

" Madam,

" In compliance with your request, I have taken into serious consideration the interesting case of the young lady for which you seem to entertain so lively a sympathy; and I shall proceed to give you, as you have desired, my free and unbiassed opinion on the nature of that case; as far as the circumstances of a single interview enable me to form a settled opinion on the subject.

" In the first place, then, Madam, I am fully and decidedly convinced—that there is, in this instance, no species of deficiency, either in the natural structure or natural sensibility of the organs of speech—whether of voice or enunciation; nor any thing, in the circumstances of *those organs,* that should necessarily produce any permanent deficiency in the utterance of that young lady.

" Upon the subject of intellectual *capability*, I *think* I might almost venture to speak with the same decision ;—since, neither in the form of the head, the shape of the features, nor in the expression of the physiognomy, do I discover any of those indications or appearances, that almost universally accompany physical ideotism, or constitutional imbecility of mind. [You will please to notice, Madam,—that I use the terms physical and contitutional, in contradistinction to any deficiency or non-developement of the faculties of the mind, that may have arisen from moral or educational causes, or the want of that mental treatment which the peculiarities of the case might require.] There is, indeed, in the eyes, a peculiar expression—which, to the casual observer, might suggest a suspicion of something verging towards ideotism ; but from which (upon due consideration) I am disposed to draw a directly opposite inference. I cannot see, in that peculiarity of expression, any thing that is ideotic. It certainly is not the glare of vacancy. On the contrary, it appears to me, to be rather the look of tense exertion and observance ; —an effort to obtain, thro the medium of sight, some portion of that information, as to what is pass-

ing, which others receive thro the medium of the ear. The young lady may be said to listen with her eyes; and her being rather short-sighted, which I understand to be the case, cooperating with this effort, will sufficiently account for this only unfavourable appearance in the physiognomy: which, thus considered, becomes an argument of the earnestness, rather than the debility of the mind; and furnishes a rational ground of hope, rather than of despair.

" In the formation of the throat there is something, indeed, that appears to approximate towards Cretinage; but, whatever may be the case with the unfortunate inhabitants of the Alps, I have sufficient instances in remembrance, to justify me in the unqualified assertion—that, in this country, such conformation, whether hereditary or incidental, has no necessary connection with idiocy or mental imbecility; and I certainly do not, in the present instance, observe the least connection between this circumstance and the existing deficiency in the speech.

" In short—the only organic deficiency of any importance I can perceive, in the case of this young lady, is in the organ of hearing. How far

that is capable of relief falls not entirely within my province: but I understand you to have had, already, the best advice which can possibly be had upon the subject. From the defect of hearing, and the want of that particular attention and management which this defect rendered indispensable, I conceive to have arisen all the deficiency and imperfection of utterance; and from the same causes, cooperating with the additional difficulty thrown in the way of customary communication by that imperfection of speech, I conceive—has resulted whatever imperfection or deficiency may be observable or suspected in the young lady's mind. As far as I have yet had opportunity of discovering, those imperfections or deficiencies consist more in the want of *communicated ideas,* or *acquired knowledge,* than of original faculty or capability of acquisition. If there be any deficiency of *perceptive* faculty (the hearing alone excepted) I conceive it to be rather accountable for, from the want of exercise and developement, than to be referable to any fault of nature. Of the connective faculty, I have not seen any symptom, whatever, of the least deficiency: tho this is a subject upon which to speak with positiveness, it would be necessary for me to have more

opportunities of observation, and to make some experiments.

" Such, Madam, is the outline of my opinion, as to the theory of this case It remains—that I state to you my practical inferences as to the probability of successful treatment. This it behoves me to do with some caution ; as a certain portion of professional reputation must necessarily be pledged by such a statement. But if the view I have already taken of the nature and phænomena of the case be accurate—(and I am confident, that, in several of the leading points, it may be depended upon) there is much to be hoped from a rational, steady and persevering system of management—grounded on the inductions to be drawn from a previous series of well-regulated experiments. I have no doubt that the speech may be considerably improved. I should by no means despair of its being tutored into *tolerable,* if not *considerable* perfection: only that the tone, perhaps, will always have less harmony and flexibility than might be produced, thro the medium of a better ear. I am equally inclined to the opinion that the mind, to a certain degree, at least, may be opened; that many branches of useful, ornamental and amusive knowledge, and

most of the accomplishments that are proper for a lady in the most respectable sphere of life, might, under a proper system of management, be attained: and I should certainly earnestly recommend—that as many such accomplishments as the young lady could be inspired with a taste or inclination for, should be cultivated with all practicable assiduity. In short, that every means should be adopted to produce new impressions, enlarge the circle of ideas, and excite the mind and faculties to activity. I need hardly add that for the furtherance of these objects, no local situation can be so favourable as the metropolis. I must, however, be understood as building my confidence of success, in this, and in all similar cases, upon the steadiness, consistency, and perseverance with which the plans that may be laid down should be pursued. For the full attainment of so serious an object as developing defective or neglected faculties, there must be a system of education particularly adapted to the specific case; and, in the conduct of that system, there must be one presiding and directing mind; in whom every plan must originate, or to whom it must be submitted, and whose directions and restrictions must be punctiliously attended to, by every

person who familiarly approaches or associates with the pupil, in the absence, as well as in the presence of such tutor. Of the importance of this, you yourself, Madam, appeared so fully impressed, that it was, perhaps, scarcely necessary for me to have mentioned it; and it will certainly be a very fortunate circumstance (if the father of the young lady should resolve upon having the experiment tried) that she should have the protection and superintendence of a friend so fully impressed with the importance, and so prepared to promote the efficacy of any regulation that may be necessary to be adopted.

" When I speak of Perseverance, I, of course, have reference to time as well as to system. I do not consider this as a case, in which I could think it proper to stake my reputation by any temporary or transient arrangement. I would not for any possible fee or emolument have the young lady, if placed under my direction, under circumstances that would not justify the confidence that she should depart from that superintendence essentially benefited by my instructions and management. And, as several weeks might probably elapse in experimental observation, before a regular system could

be formed, on the permanent efficacy of which we might securely depend, I conceive—that if I am to be honoured, in this case, with the confidence of the young lady's friends, the engagement ought to be made, in the first instance, for half a year: during which time, I should propose to give my *regular personal attendance* for *an hour in every day* (except Sundays, or when any very rare and particular emergency might prevent) and to lay down such plans, and prescribe such modes of management, and branches of education, as might, from time to time, appear necessary to be adopted. In the course of that time I am confident that something would be done, that would be productive of permanent advantage: enough to enable the friends of the young lady to decide—how far it was worth their while, and how far it was necessary, further to persevere in the plan of my personal superintendence; or how far the future progress of education might safely be intrusted to any judicious person, who could be depended upon in following the further directions I might deem necessary to communicate.

"JOHN THELWALL."

Bedford-Place, 7th Dec. 1809.

APPENDIX.

THO the following miscellaneous articles are so far thrown into the form of notes, as to have reference to particular passages in the Letter; they will not be found of the nature of necessary explanations. It is hoped that there are, in the text, no passages, that, in any such point of view, stand in need of annotation. They consist partly of disquisitions—that, in a methodical treatise, (if time could have been found for such a composition) might have been inwoven into the general texture; and partly of essays that are only collaterally related to the immediate subject; but which may throw additional light upon the professional pursuits of the author, and the extent and objects of his Institution.

Note 1. *p.* 9.—" This transcendant series of upwards of ten thousand verses."

The vindication and illustration of the rhythmus of Milton, is, in a critical point of view, the fa-

vourite object of my system: and almost an entire copy of the Paradise Lost, and other poems of that author, scanned into cadences, according to that system, with a notation of the quantities and qualities of the respective syllables, will enable me to convince the curious enquirer—that I have not drawn my conclusions upon the subject, from hasty surmise, or partial experiment. This is, perhaps, the test, to which every rule or system of pretended analysis of English Rhythmus ought to be brought; and I think it will be admitted, that the system by the practical application of which the versification of the Paradise Lost is rendered most perfect—most harmonious and expressive to the ear, is, in all probability, the most correct system of English Prosody;—how widely soever it may differ from the systems generally received: at least, that of two systems, by accommodating his enunciation, and the action of his voice, to one of which—the reader or reciter should render what should be the versification of that poem, in innumerable instances, and in almost every page, into dissonant and hobbling prose, and by the other of which—he should present the whole (even the passages most objectionable in the former experiment) into flowing energetic

and well-proportioned numbers — numbers that should, at once, delight the ear, by their expressive variety, and the fastidiousness of analytical perception, by the nice adjustment of mathematical proportions,—the latter is the more likely to have its foundations in those very feelings and principles of nature under the influence of which the poet originally wrote.

It is not my intention, of course, to enter into a systematic elucidation of such a system, in a note upon a hasty, and, perhaps, fugitive publication, like the present. But the following articles, which have already appeared in the Monthly Magazine, having reference to a part of that system, will perhaps not be unacceptable or unappropriate, in this place. The former of these was communicated in August, 1806; and was occasioned by a criticism in the same Miscellany, for the month of June preceding, on the following passage of our immortal bard.—Book i. Line 44.

" Him the Almighty Power
Hurl'd headlong flaming from th' ethereal sky,
With hideous ruin and combustion, down
To bottomless perdition, there to dwell

In adamantine chains and penal fire,
Who durst defy th' Omnipotent to arms."

Which the critic proposed thus to alter—

" Him who durst thus defy
Th' Omnipotent to arms, th' Almighty Power
Hurl'd headlong flaming from th' ethereal sky,
With hideous ruin and combustion, down
To bottomless perdition, there to dwell
In adamantine chains and penal fire."

Upon this supposed amendment, my animadversion was as follows—

" The devoted attention which, for some years, I have been in the habit of paying to the Works of Milton, and the adoration with which I contemplate by far the greater part of his divine poem, occasion me always to feel some degree of jealousy when I find him submitted to the cavil of verbal criticism; and I believe it may safely be asserted, that, in at least ninety-nine instances out of every hundred, wherein such cavils have been advanced, a finer perception, and a more accurate investigation, would have shewn—that the poet was in the right, and his critics entirely in the wrong. Most as-

surely I never yet met with an individual instance of proposed correction, that did not remind me of the schoolboy's experiments upon his pen,—who every time he *mended* it, made it *worse*. In applying this observation most unequivocally to your correspondent M. N. (Monthly Mag. p. 392,) I hope I shall not wound his feelings, since I only accuse him of failing, where, perhaps, it is not given to human nature to be capable of succeeding.

"I do not mean to assert—that the Paradise Lost is all perfection. That it might have been rendered still more exquisite, by some retrenchments, cannot, I think, be denied;—and that the sublime genius of Milton might have substituted something better in the place of those disputations of scholastic subtlety and quibbling metaphysics that occupy so many pages of his poem, I am ready enough to admit. But tho Milton may, sometimes, *nod*, let not criticism dream, that, where the pen of inspiration has fallen from his hand, the deficiency is to be supplied by mortal talent. In the present instance, however, it appears to me—that it is not Milton who nods, but his commentator, who slumbers: nor would I, for my own part, change a single iota of the noble passage quoted by your

correspondent, either for the alteration he has offered, or for any thing I suspect either critic or poet to be capable of suggesting. I am, indeed, much inclined to suspect—that this objection (like the generality of those cavils to which the rhythmus and construction of Milton have been so frequently exposed,) has originated in that system of erroneous mechanism so generally applied to the act of reading our English poets: a system which, in many instances, has even deformed our typography, corrupted our orthography, turned into absolute dissonance some of the most exquisite verses in our language, and caused to be regarded as extremely difficult, to the reader and the reciter, an author, who, considering the sublimity of his ideas, and the vastness of his erudition, is, perhaps, the easiest of all authors who ever wrote. [I might have added—that this erroneous hypothesis of numerical mechanism has even debased the genius of our versification, by occasioning not a few of what are called our *correct* poets, anxiously to avoid modes of construction and arrangement, which they ought most sedulously to have cultivated.] Give to the verses of Milton (what all verses ought to have) the easy flow of a spontaneous and oratorical utterance—the objections advanced by silent, inappre-

hensive, finger-counting monastics, will disappear; and, instead of condemning, we shall learn to applaud that free spontaneous flow of oratorical period, which the versification of Milton so transcendantly displays.

"With this recollection in our minds, let us turn to the passage in question, and (trying what can be done, by the assistance of a correct orthography and accurate punctuation, towards assisting the perception of the reader,) bring its melody and its construction to that test by which alone they can properly be tried: that test—which can only be fairly appreciated by those who have learned to consider it as the peculiar excellence of the style of Milton—that his construction was always regulated by his perceptions of melody; and that his melody was always the spontaneous emanation of the sentiment, the passion, or the image, that glowed in his creative mind. The passage, then, I would have printed thus,—the inverted curve (˘) indicating the *contraction,* not the *elision,* of the respective vowels over which it is placed.

"Him the Almighty Powĕr
Hurl'd, headlong, flaming, from thĕ etherĕal sky,—

With hidĕous ruin and combustĭon, down
To bottomless perdition : there to dwell
In adamantine chains and penal fire,—
Who durst defy thĕ Omnipotent to arms ! "

" Let any person read or recite this passage, with an oratorical flow of utterance ; let him give to the respective syllables the quantities and qualities to which they are liable in spontaneous speech,—and none other ; let him make his pauses there, and there only, where they would fall according to the grammatical construction and divisions of the sense in spontaneous prose ; and regulate the time and emphases by the dictates of simple usage, and the import of the respective words ; and then, let him accurately consider—whether, in the first place, any alteration of the arrangement could be made, without injury to the music of the period ? and, in the second, whether the mind can have any possible difficulty in supplying that species of grammatical elision, without which, not poetry only, but even prose, cannot, with any sort of smoothness or conveniency, proceed ? It is true, indeed, that minute analysis requires the following repetition to be supplied " There to dwell in adamantine chains and

penal fire :—*him there to dwell,* who durst defy the Omnipotent to arms ! " But to me it appears—that, when the passage is properly read, it is utterly impossible that a mind of any apprehension can fail of instantaneously supplying such repetition ; and if so, how much more graceful is this mode of construction ; which, equally intelligible, is at the same time so much more terse and harmonious than the prosing formality that mere grammatical pureism might have dictated. The passage, I grant, requires to be well and naturally read, in order to be promptly comprehended ; but surely there are very few passages worth comprehending, either of verse or prose, that can be promptly understood when they are read unnaturally and ill ; and I repeat—that, but for the difficulties thrown in our way by false principles of criticism, and false systems of utterance, I do not know a single writer, either of prose or of verse (the sublimity of his subject and the elevation of his ideas considered,) whom it is more easy to read than Milton. I certainly do not remember the season, even of my boyhood, since I was capable of understanding the words he makes use of, when I ever found any difficulty in so reading him as to be able to comprehend such portions

of his meaning as did not happen to refer to topics beyond the sphere of my imperfect erudition.

"It is, perhaps, worthy of consideration, whether a carefully revised edition, rationally punctuated, and accompanied with a simple and accurate system of notation, that might facilitate the spontaneous reading, and indicate the natural rhythmus of this sublime and wonderful poem, might not contribute to the still more general diffusion of the reputation of our immortal bard, and to the increased gratification of his numerous admirers."

"I might, certainly, without subjecting myself to the imputation of any great overflow of critical gall, have animadverted a little more severely on the euphony and the rhythmus (or rather the prosaic cacophony) of the proposed commencement, Him who *durst thus de*fy—and have inquired—into what cadences, or what feet, or by what rules of percussion, or accent, of number, of quantity, or of adjustment of thesis and arsis, they were to be scanned, or divided? I ought to have ask'd—why, if we are to print or read "from th' eth," we ought not, also, to make another elision in the sequent

word, and print and read "ether'al?" why, if we are to have "th' Omnipotent," we should not have, also, "hid'ous," "combust'on," &c. Let our finger-counting critics, at any rate,—if it be but for the sake of so much reputation as may result from the conviction that they can count their fingers, at all times, with equal certainty, be consistent with themselves, and present us with a complete edition of the Paradise Lost, after the following sample,—with as many of their own amendments, and conjectural readings as they may think proper to introduce: and then—let them but read as they print, and find, if they can, an audience, "with Midas' ears," enough, to listen to the end of the first page.

Him who durst thus defy
Th' Omnipotent to arms, th' Almighty Pow'r
Hurl'd headlong flaming from th' ether'al sky
With hid'ous ruin and combust*chun* down
To bottomless perdi*shun*— ! ! !

The subject of Elision, however, I pursued still further, in the following communication; which appeared in the Monthly Magazine for the December following.

" If I had not been ashamed to couple the consideration of my own verses with the vindication of those of Milton, I should have said a few words, in a former paper, upon the subject of an established inaccuracy of typography; illustrations of which are exhibited in the printed copy of Anacreontic Stanzas, which appeared in your Magazine of June: I mean the frequent elision of the vowel, as in " wint'ry " for " wintĕry," and " th' autumnal " for " thĕ autumnal." I might add, indeed, (if Dr. Johnson did not stare me in the face,) " remembrance " for " remembĕrance: " for most assuredly every elegant speaker would pronounce the vowel, whatever the lexicographer may order us to write. [So, also, our best speakers in the House of Commons, &c. uniformly pronounce *Henĕry,* not *Henry;* nor can there be any reason in common sense or etymology why it should not so be written. Those who appreciate the euphony of the English language not by the ear, but by mechanical calculations, would do well to consider how many vowels we pronounce which we do not write, as well as how many we write which we do not pronounce. I observe, also, with much satisfaction, that a few of our parliamentary orators, of most

acknowledged taste and erudition, pronounce the word India, as three syllables, *In-dĭ-ă*; and leave *In-jee* to the natives of Hibernia, and their imitators, and *In-dē* to the country gentlemen.] This elision is, in reality, one of the most glaring defects of modern typography; and when attended to, as it too frequently is, by the reader, it will sometimes reduce a verse of the sweetest euphony to a kind of cluttering cacophony, that would not be tolerated in the most careless and unornamented prose. It has originated, most undoubtedly, in that spirit of pedantic criticism—which attempts to scan the rhythmus of verse upon the fingers, because it is incompetent to appreciate it by the ear: to that barbarous confusion in the language and ideas of modern prosodists, who, confounding together the distinctions of heavy and light with those of long and short, and insensible to the happy flexibility and almost infinite variety in the quantities of English syllables, have not had mathematics enough in their ears to perceive—that $2+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}$ are equal to $2+1$. Such, however, were not the perceptions of the great master of rhythmical harmony, our immortal Milton; an essential part of the excellence of whose versification appears to me to consist in that

admirable dexterity with which he has so frequently enriched his lines with supernumerary syllables: —syllables that, in many instances, set at defiance all the mechanical expedients of elision, and secure a rich variety of mellifluous rhythmus, which no succession of lines uniformly composed of ten syllables can ever hope to rival. In this respect, (weak follower as I am!) I have endeavoured, at humble distance, to tread in the footsteps of my illustrious master: and believing a due mixture of short notes (provided the *equal measure of the cadences* be not interrupted) to be as essential a grace in the music of speech, as it is in the ordinary music of instrument and song, I have sedulously interspersed the few compositions of my riper years with verses partly composed of such words, and such successions of words, (wherever the nature of the sentiment and the echo of the sense would permit,) as might present this variety in the most unequivocal form. Accordingly, in the three first lines of the Anacreontic in question, I have presumed to introduce no less than four of these supernumerary syllables; and twelve more will be found in the nine ensuing stanzas: yet I should hope—that no one of the lines in which the supposed redundancies oc-

cur, when measured by the nice perceptions of an accurate ear, will be found to trespass against the strict laws of cadential quantity and proportion. And surely, if we may have "An-ac-rĕ-on's shell," and not "An-ac-r'on's shell,"—"In-ēb-rĭ-ate with the wanton lay," and not "In-ēb-r'ate," &c. we may also have "thĕ-au-tum-nal," and not "th' au-tum-nal fire." If we may read "low-ĕr-ing (or hov-ĕr-ing) near," and not "low-'ring" or "hov-'ring;" if, without offence to the measure, we may preserve "rap-tŭ-rous shell,"—"The visĭons that in mem-ŏ-ry roll,"—"The draft on mem-ŏ-ry's tablet true," &c. can there be any necessity or reason for rejecting "wint-ĕr-y snows,"—"cords of sweet rem-emb-ĕr-ance, &c.? I am aware, however, that there are many who would print, and not a few who would even read, in all these instances, *wint'ry, hov'ring, rapt'rous, mem'ry, th'autumnal,* &c. but such printing may I seldom behold; such reading of my poor verses may I never be condemned to hear!

"Every observer will presently be convinced—that in the spontaneous flow of elegant conversation, such barbarous elisions are never heard; and I cannot admit that any combination of syllables ought to

be regarded as an English verse, that cannot be, at once, recognized as such, when pronounced, thro every syllable, within the strictest limits of conversational propriety. Many of our syllables, indeed, will be found, even in ordinary delivery, to be liable to a considerable degree of latitude,—both in *quantity* and *tune*. These, when they occur in prose, we humour, according to our convenience, our taste, or our caprice. In verse, on the contrary, their flexible qualities become fixed and ascertained, by the selection and arrangement of the poet. Still, however, the freedom of his election extends no farther than the limits of conversational usage; and the printer, or the reader, should take it for granted, if the author in reality be worthy of his types or of his breath, that when he most strictly conforms himself to the limits thus prescribed, he most efficiently represents the species of harmony the poet intended to produce.

" The egotism of these remarks may, perhaps, require some apology; but as a matter of general application, I presume to hope—that the principles suggested may not be thought unworthy of attention, &c."

The little poem alluded to in these illustrations, if correctly printed, according to my system, would stand thus—

ANACREONTIC.

Come reach me old Anacrĕon's lyre,
For wintĕry snows are hovĕring near,
And soon shall chill thĕ Autumnal fire
That gleams on life's declining year.

Then let me wake the raptŭrous shell,
With cords of sweet remembĕrance strung;
While grateful Age delights to tell
Of joys that glow'd when life was young.

And, lest the languid pulse forgo
The throb that Fancy's flight inspires,
Anacrĕon's flowing cup bestow,
And urge with wine the waning fires.

But *temper* me the Teĭan bowl!
And *chasten* me the Teĭan shell!
The visĭons that in memŏry roll
Are such as Nature's bosom swell.

Yes, Nature!—thine the votive string,
To no polluted ear addrest;
That of no blooming boys can sing,
But boys that hang on Beauty's breast.

Nor lawless, thro the realms of Love,
Where native Venus lights the way,
Shall yet excursive Fancy rove,
Inebriate with the wanton lay.

If, while the mantling goblet flows,
I sing of Beauty's charms divine;—
The breast that heaves, the cheek that glows,
And beaming eyes like stars that shine;—

The draft on Memory's tablet true
That pictures each entrancing grace,
Without a frown shall Stella view,
Or there some lov'd memorial trace;

And when with high-enraptur'd air,
My lavish verse shall most commend,
Shall find her youthful image there,
Or, in each portrait, own a friend.

Then reach me old Anacreon's lyre,
And temper me Anacreon's bowl;
That youthful joy's remember'd fire
May Age's numbing frost controul.

Note 2. p. 23-4.—" The principles of musical cadence and proportion——from the natural thesis and arsis of the organ of primary impulse, &c."

The full explanation of this axiom would require the quotation of the entire Lecture which I have been, heretofore, in the habit of delivering upon the subject of Pulsation and Remission. But, even if so long a note could properly find a place in the appendix to so short a book, that Lecture, has in reality, never been written,—having been delivered, as my Lectures always are, from short notes, or memoranda; and I have not now the leisure to fill up the hasty and imperfect outline. The following brief suggestion on the subject of " the connection between the sciences of Physiology and Music, and the physical cause of the satisfaction received by the human ear from such sounds, exclusively, as are reducible to the stated proportions of common and triple time," is reprinted from one of my early communications with the Monthly Magazine.

" Mr. Joshua Steele, in the only valuable work I have met with on the subject of English elocution (" *Prosodia Rationalis,* or a Treatise on the

Measure and Melody of Speech") observes, (p. 26) "that either a tune or a discourse will give some uneasiness,—or, at least, not be quite satisfactory to nice ears, if its whole duration be not measured by an even number of complete cadences, commensurable with, or divisible by two or by three." (He admits, however, (p. 23.) that, at least with respect to the rhythmus of speech, "perhaps, the number five, as being composed of the prime numbers two and three, should be also excepted;"—and Mr. Shield, I understand, has practically demonstrated the same exception, even with respect to the music of song. But these exceptions interfere not with so much of the proposition as falls under our consideration. All is referable to the primary cadences of common and triple time.) To the axiom thus advanced, Mr. Steele has added the following note:—"It were to be wished that something more "than assertion, with an appeal to nature, and a con-"jecture, could be offered as an illustration of this "mysterious law. But may not space of time be "analogous to space in geometry; which can only "be equally and uniformly divided by quadrilateral "or triangular polygons, their multiples, or subdu-"ples; that is by squares □, parallelograms, ▭ tri-"angles △, or hexagons ⬡; for with a series of pen-

" tagons or heptagons, or any other polygons than
" those first mentioned, no space can be uniformly
" covered, without leaving void interstices of hetero-
" geneous forms; whereas, any quadrilateral or tri-
" angular space can be completely covered with ho-
" mogeneous quadrilateral or triangular figures."

" That this conjecture is ingenious, must be admitted; but that it is completely satisfactory, I think the most devoted mathematician will not venture to affirm. The fact is—that not to geometrical proportions, but to physical principles, we must look for the solution of the difficulty. The necessary action and reaction of the primary organ of vocal impulse, once comprehended,—the law of universal sympathy between the executive and the perceptive organs, exhibited in all the phænomena of vital action and vital perception, once considered,—and the necessary reference of all imitative art, (however modified and improved) to the primary principles of original nature, once admitted,—the mystery may be easily explained."

There is an obscure impression on my mind—that to some or other of the periodical publications, I have communicated a brief abstract of that part of

the lecture alluded to, in which the principle of the physical thesis and arsis is explained. I have only been able, however, to lay my hand upon the following sketches, from the Monthly Magazine, and the Medical and Physical Journal:—the former containing a very compressed outline of the entire Course of Lectures on the Science and Practice of Elocution; the latter, a somewhat more enlarged skeleton on the Physiological series only. As the lectures have ceased to be publicly delivered, and are not likely to be very shortly printed—if, indeed, they should ever be written out—these sketches may not, perhaps, be unacceptable to those who have not been in the way of meeting with them in those Miscellanies.

"The object of my course of Lectures on the science and practice of elocution is to explain and illustrate, in a popular way, the physiological and musical principles upon which all graceful and harmonious utterance must necessarily depend; and practically to elucidate the deportment and accomplishments with which the higher efforts of oratorical delivery should be accompanied.

"In the prosecution of this plan, I find it ne-

cessary to commence with an inquiry into the structure and offices of those two distinct classes of organs (the *Vocal* and the *Enunciative)* which are employed in the production and variation of tunable sounds, and in superadding to those sounds the discriminative characteristics of literal and verbal expression. In explaining the functions of the latter of these, I necessarily discuss the anatomy of the elementary sounds of English Speech ; and the precise actions of the organs by which such elements are formed. The laws of physical necessity, under which the organs act, come next into review: from the injudicious application of an overstrained volition to which, I trace the gradations of harsh and ungraceful utterance; and from irregular and inconsiderate efforts for their counteraction, all impediments of speech. This part of the subject leads me to an investigation of the intimate connection between physiological and harmonic science; the origin of our perceptions of musical proportion, from the primary actions and reactions of the organ of vocal impulse, and the application of these implicated sciences to facility of utterance, to the improvement of the grace and harmony of speech, and to the removal of *habitual* impediments.

Facts, also, are introduced relative to the practical application of the principles in question, and to the structure and efficacy of artificial organs, in those cases of defective conformation, which, alone, should be regarded as cases of natural impediment.

" Such are the essential elements of my Science ; tho the assistance of philology is occasionally appealed to, in the more critical parts of the investigation. From these original stems, a variety of interesting considerations necessarily branch forth : —such as the application of all the various contradistinctions of ordinary music to the phænomena of speech ; the thesis and arsis, corresponding with the posing and rising—or accented and unaccented notes of the musician ; the varieties of higher and lower tones, and of the inflections of acute and grave on the respective syllables ; the adjustment of the percussive impulse—again confounded by the grammarian, under the abused appellation of the term accent ; the adaptation of the degrees of loud and soft to appropriate words ; of swell and fall to the respective portions of sentences ; of the staccato and the legato styles to different combinations of sentiment and language ; the objects and elements of idiomatic pronunciation ; the nature of

vocal punctuation; the seat, tune, and quantity of emphases; and other particulars,—of the extent, variety, and connections of which it will not, perhaps, be practicable to give a more compressed idea than is attempted in the titles of thirty successive Lectures, subjoined to the introductory discourse, recently printed for publication.

" Nor do I confine my instructions to the mere language of tone and enunciation; attitude and demeanour have their share of my attention. Composition, also, (whether in verse or prose) is too intimately connected with my subject to be passed over in silence. The graces of conversational accomplishment,—the towering energies of soul,—the range of intellectual attainment essential to genuine eloquence,—and all that relates to the formation of the oratorical character, come ultimately under consideration."

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal, my communication was, in substance, as follows:

—" I can readily conceive—that neither you nor your readers may be predisposed to the supposition—that the subject of this communication has anything to do with the objects to which the Medical and

Physical Journal is devoted. But impediments of speech, tho originating, for the most part, in irregular volition, may, in some degree, be regarded as a species of disease; and it cannot be denied—that they are frequently connected (sometimes as causes, and sometimes as effects) with other diseased actions of the human system. Cases, indeed, there are of this description, which come within the immediate province of the surgeon. Of this kind, some have been referred to me by professional gentlemen; while, in others, I have been obliged to appeal to the assistance of the operator, before the object of my instructions could be secured. In cases, especially, of defective conformation, there is assuredly much that demands the attention of the medical professor; and I should hope—that the time cannot be distant, when it will be thought as regular, and as honourable, for him to superintend the application of those artificial organs—by which the powers of distinct and articulate utterance may be substituted for the hollow and unintelligible murmurs of a half-formed mouth, as to dictate the form and use of those mechanical implements, by which the less glorious distinctions of erect attitude, and the firm tread of human proportion, are occasion-

ally conferred upon the miserable cripple. Even in cases where the original workmanship of Nature has not been so deficient, circumstances have occurred that shew how intimately connected some parts of my present pursuit are with the objects of medical science ; and, within these very few weeks, during my temporary residence in the neighbourhood of Doncaster, Mr. Hill, of the Dissenting College, at Rotherham, has found himself essentially relieved from some of the inconveniences of asthma, by the system of management of the breath and voice, which I dictated for his improvement in the art of reading; a circumstance, indeed, which I was prepared to expect, from similar advantages I had myself derived from the judicious attention paid to me, in my early years, by the tutor to whom I am indebted for the first practical rudiments of my art.

" These considerations embolden me to trouble you with a formal announcement of my intention to establish, in the neighbourhood of London, a College for the Cure of all Impediments of Speech, not connected with absolute privation of hearing; whether originating in mal-conformation, in accidental injuries, in mental agitation, or imitative habit; and,

also, to request your insertion of the following sketch of the physiological parts of a Course of Lectures, which it is my intention, at the same time, to commence in the metropolis.

" As the foundations of elocutionary science are equally laid in the physiological necessities that dictate the actions of the organs of speech, and in the laws of musical inflection and proportion, with which those actions most readily conform,—I find it necessary to commence my course of instruction with an inquiry into the structure and offices of those organs. These I find it necessary to distribute into two distinct classes;—the *vocal organs,* which are employed in the production and variation of tunable sounds; and the *enunciative,* which are employed in superadding to those sounds the characteristic discriminations of literal and verbal expression: a classification, I believe, not hitherto observed, either by elocutionists or physiologists; and which, like other classifications, may be thought to have its difficulties; since some of the organs will, perhaps, be found to act in a double capacity —of modifying the *tune,* or at least the *tone* of the voice, and of ministering to literal and verbal conformation. The distinction, nevertheless, is suffi-

ciently obvious for all the purposes of scientific and practical application ; and certainly, in the management of impediments and deficiencies of utterance, is of sufficient importance to challenge a very minute attention. I doubt, exceedingly, whether the failure of Dr. Itard, in his attempt to confer the exercise of the faculty of speech on the Savage of Aveyron, may not, in some degree, be attributed to his overlooking this essential distinction. The organs of voice seem to have been minutely examined ; tho of the phænomena these should exhibit, there never appears to have been any deficiency : but what attention is recorded to the excitement of the sensibilities and varieties of lingual, labial and uvulary action,—upon which the formation of verbal language must depend ?

" To this classification, therefore, I think it necessary to pay very particular attention ; and, having assumed, as my simple datum, the generally received doctrine of the origin of all sounds in percussions and vibrations of the air, I proceed to a minute investigation of the anatomy of those organs which, in the human being, give the impulses, and produce the modifications of those percussions that propagate the sounds of voice. In this part

of my inquiry, I have a very powerful ally in Mr. John Gough, of Kendal; whose scientific theory, as developed in several successive papers in the Manchester Memoirs, and in his correspondence with myself upon the subject" [See the earlier pages of the present publication.] "falls in so exactly with the views, which, without concert or knowledge of his speculations, I had previously formed, that I instantly incorporated it with my system. Emboldened by the corroboration of his experiments, which have been further confirmed by my own reiterated repetitions, and of which sensible demonstrations are usually exhibited as I proceed, I endeavour not only to explain the phænomena of the variety of human voices, but to point out the means by which strength, tone and modulation of voice may be essentially improved.

"Here still my subject continues to be closely connected with Physical and Medical Science; a minute comparison of the elocutionary and the vital functions of the lungs; the requisite reception and decomposition of atmospheric air, in the cells of that organ; the small portion of such air necessary for the purposes of sonorous impulse;

and, above all, appeals to notorious instances of persons of the weakest and most diseased conformation attaining great command and power of voice, enabling me not only to demonstrate the importance of management and judicious tuition, in these respects; but, also, the reciprocal action and re-action of vocal and constitutional improvement.

" Having considered the structure and offices of the enunciative organs, in the same particular way, and demonstrated the anatomy of the elementary parts of English speech, I proceed to the primary laws of physical necessity, under which the organs act. From one simple and original principle (whose existence and operation, I trust, are sufficiently demonstrated by the series of experiments regularly exhibited) I trace the fundamental and *physical* distinctions of heavy and light syllables; and from the *unavoidable* alternations of these (or of pauses of the voice during the actions by which they should be produced) I demonstrate the formation of those simple cadences of common and triple measure, out of which arise all the beauties of rhythmus, and all the facilities of fluent and harmonious utterance. From an injudicious application of undisciplined volition to this physical

action, I endeavour to account for all the gradations of harsh, ungraceful, and interruptive delivery; and from inconsiderate attempts to violate this primary law, all the customary *impediments of speech.*

" The practical management of these (in which consists the glory of my art,) is next considered. The line of separation between organic and habitual impediment is endeavoured to be accurately marked; the distinctions of physical and moral ideotism are discussed, as far as relates to their connection with my subject; precise facts are stated (such of them as attention to the feelings of individuals will permit, with all the circumstantiality of name and place) relative to extraordinary developements and calamitous extinctions of organic capabilities; and instances are adduced of children rendered speechless, by mis-management in their early education; and of mutes who have been brought to the full exercise of the powers of speech, by the application of proper stimuli. Some of the instances thus adduced, have fallen under my own observation; for others I am indebted to the communications of Mr. John Gough, Dr. James of Carlisle, and other professional and scientific characters.

" The chirurgical operations by which malcon-

formations are to be remedied, constitute another ramification of this essential branch of my subject; and the structure and application of artificial organs, whose efficacy, even in the deplorable cases of fissure of the palate and obliteration of the uvula, I trust, is sufficiently demonstrable. [Of the feasibleness of this, the boldest and most difficult of all the practical applications of my science, I never myself had any kind of doubt; and the practicability of such artificial supply of the most formidable deficiency of natural organization, was, accordingly, one of the axioms I ventured to advance, at the first outset of my present lectures (between three and four years ago;) when much of my subject lay yet in chaos, and many of its most essential principles were but dimly descried. But the learned and ingenious Dr. Pringle, of Alnwick, (to whose attentions I have many obligations to acknowledge) endeavoured to convince me—that, in this respect, I carried my hypothesis to a visionary extent; and that such deficiencies were perfectly irremediable. I have since learned, that, in this opinion, he is completely countenanced by the first medical and anatomical characters in the metropolis. I bowed, therefore, to authority, till facts

could be appealed to; and omitted, for some time, this part of my animadversions. But my visit to Birmingham presented me with the opportunity I desired. Against positive demonstration, authority, however high, cannot be admitted as argument. I resume my statement, therefore, not merely as theory, but as a practical and proven fact].

" The remedy of habitual impediments involves a more complicated view of my general theory. Some of these, indeed, originate in mere anatomical position; and all of them in what may be called the want of a proper understanding between the voluntary and physical powers; but the mode of treatment is so completely implicated with the musical parts of my science, that to enter into it would be to trespass upon those limits which the nature of your publication necessarily dictates to this communication."

The application of this principle has been further illustrated, and my ideas upon the subject of English rhythmus, in some degree developed, in the following paper, addressed to the Editor of the Monthly Magazine, and inserted in the Number of that miscellany, published the 1st of Feb. 1807.

" SIR,

" I am sorry to trouble you again about errors of the press; but there is one in the last line of the second column, page 445, of your last Magazine, *(in my remarks on the improper elision of vowels)* that reduces the sentence to such tautology and nonsense, that I am obliged to request the opportunity of a conspicuous correction. I had stated that " many of our syllables will be found, even in ordinary delivery, to be liable to a considerable degree of latitude, both in QUANTITY and TUNE;" but your compositor (who may very well be excused for never having heard of the *tune* of syllables, in the ordinary pronunciation of speech) has substituted the word *time;* and made me dwell upon a distinction (infinitely too subtile, I suppose, for the apprehension of any of your readers) between the *quantity* of a syllable and its *time*.

" I throw no reproach, therefore, on the corrector of your press, on account of this inaccuracy: but, as the discrimination of the various properties of English syllables is one of those topics, to which, both from taste and from professional duty, I am in the habit of paying a very particular attention, I avail myself of the present opportunity to eluci-

date the distinction alluded to in my last communication.

"English syllables then, Sir, I conceive, (and I believe I might confidently affirm the same of the syllables of all languages, that ever did, or ever can exist) differ from each other, not only in their *enunciative elements* (i. e. the simple qualities of the letters of which they are composed) and in their respective *quantities,* (i. e. the time they occupy in pronunciation) but, also, in the following *qualities,* —which constitute (in the most comprehensive application of the word) their tune; and which I shall endeavour to contradistinguish by appropriate symbols; the greater part of which I have borrowed from the ingenious work of Mr. Joshua Steele.

"First—Syllables differ from each other in their *poise*—that is to say, in the affections of *heavy* (Δ) and *light* (∴)—the *Thesis* and *Arsis* of the Greeks: —the alternations of which (not proceeding from mere *taste and election,* but resulting from the *physical necessities* under which the primary organ of vocal impulse, and indeed all organs and implements of motion, must eternally act) constitute those ascertainable and measurable cadences, by which alone (in the English language at least) the propor-

tions and varieties of rhythmus can be rendered palpable to the ear.—Thus | Fancy || Picture | &c. constitute cadences of common measure; | Absolute || Meditate | &c. cadences of triple measure. So also the monosyllables | Man to | man and | horse to | horse || and the following mixture of monosyllables and dissyllables "Oh! | golden | days ap | pear" || constitute cadences of common; and the following, "For his | country he | sigh'd when at | twilight re | pairing" || cadences of triple time.

"SECONDLY—Syllables may be further distinguished by the property of percussion (▲)—that is to say, by an explosive force superadded to the *heavy* poise, or more emphatic part of the cadence. Such percussion is always superadded to some one syllable of every word that has more heavy syllables than one—as | Abso | lutely || Intre | pidity || Se | ringapa | tam. || It belongs, also, to the heavy syllable of some dissyllabic words, when arranged into sentences; and even, occasionally, to certain monosyllables, under similar circumstances:—as—"Ye | airy | sprites | ſwho | oft as | fancy | calls" || —"I | hope that the | man] | will |

do his | duty." ||—*Prose* and *verse* falling, in this respect, precisely under the same laws.

"THIRDLY—The tune of syllables is still further diversified by different degrees of loudness and softness: substantives and verbs, for example, (as a general rule) demanding a more swelling loudness, and articles and conjunctions more of *diminuendo*, or softness, than the other parts of speech: a circumstance, by the way, to which it would be well, if some even of our very first rate players would pay more attention; as they would be sure to do, if they were but in the habit of observing and analysing the pure *unpremeditated speech* of those with whom (of whatever rank or intellect) they may occasionally converse. We should not then so frequently hear the fine sentences of our immortal Shakespeare deformed and degraded by the preternatural tumefaction of unimportant particles; nor would our ears be shocked by those frequent thunderings of "he, she, it, and, we, ye, they" which remind us of the wretched spectacle of a rickety child; the feebleness of whose trunk and the flaccidity of whose wasted muscles, are deplorably compensated, by the largeness of his wrists and ancles.

"I use the word *loudness* in the above paragraph, in preference to the word *force;* and, indeed, in contradistinction to it, though they are so generally confounded. Force is, indeed, rather an object of attention in the *general* management of the voice, than a property of particular syllables: though its distinctions may indeed be superadded to particular syllables, or combinations of syllables, as one of the modifications of emphasis: but a well regulated utterance will render the softest and the lightest syllables forcible; as well as the *loud,* the *heavy,* and the *percussed.*

"Fourthly—Syllables differ from each other in those most evanescent, yet highly important properties—their musical *accents.* But with what an unfortunate word am I obliged to conclude this enumeration?—*Accent!* that word so perpetually used by our grammarians and prosodists, but so little understood.—Accent! that unfortunate servant of all work in the household of English rhythmical criticism,—almost incessantly employed in every office it is unfit for, while the department for which it is exclusively qualified, remains almost entirely neglected. For example, the term *accent* is applied, in the case of all words (either of two or three syllables) that constitute but one cadence,

exactly as I apply the term *heavy,* and as the Greek grammarians applied the word *thesis*:—thus the words "fancy," "absolute," "appear," "repairing," &c. are said to be accented,—the first and second on the initial, the third and fourth on the second syllable; but, altho precisely the same property of *thesis* or *heavy,* which is given to the syllable *fan,* in "fancy," *pair,* in "repairing," &c. is given to *lute,* in "absolutely," (at least, when deliberately, or emphatically pronounced;)—to *in,* in "intrepidity," and to *ring,* in "Seringapatam," here the term accent—is, by the generality of writers, absolutely denied to these merely *heavy* syllables, and is exclusively confined to the individual syllable that receives the superadded and perfectly distinct quality of percussion. So that we have the same name applied to two distinct properties of utterance; and the appellation positively denied, in one instance, to the very same quality—which, in another, is insisted upon as constituting its sole and indisputable essence. But that is not all. That confusion may be still worse confounded, the very application of the term *accent* is, by all our grammarians, imperiously denied to all monosyllables; altho such of our monosyllables as are *substantives* have, uni-

versally, (by the most deducible and imperious law of English pronunciation, of common usage, and of common reason,) that identical quality of *heaviness,* or affection to *thesis,* which in words of two syllables is called their accent; and are even liable, as has been already shown, to that superadded quality of percussion, to which the name of accent is consigned in the longer words.

"But the measure of absurdity is not yet full. What grammarian is there who, after all his confused applications of this unfortunate word, would scruple to talk of a *Scotch accent,* an *Irish accent,* a *Welsh accent,* a *Northumbrian accent,* a *French accent,* &c.? Yet, most assuredly, the different modes of utterance thus indicated, depend upon something essentially distinct from those qualities of syllables indicated by the term accent in any of the former instances. With very few exceptions, the Scotchman, the Irishman, the Welshman, the Londoner, the native of Northumberland, &c. would place the percussion precisely on the same syllable,

				∴	▲	∴																	
and	would	make,	through				out		any		given		sentence,										
			∆	∴			∆	∴	∆	∴	∆	∴	▲	∴									
the		same		distri		bution		of		heavy	and		light										
▲	∴	∆	∴	∆	∴	▲	∴	∆	∴	∆	∴	∴	∆	∴									

per|cussed and|unper|cussed|. Yet nothing can be more different than their accents:—that is to say, (for in this respect, and this only, the vulgar application of the term is correct) than the *Idiomatic tune* of the respective provinces; or the mode and system of what old Ben Jonson so accurately defines, "*the tuning of the voice, by lifting it up and down in the musical scale;*"—a definition which is worth all that has been written upon the subject of accent, from the days of that admirable grammarian, to those of Joshua Steele; but which we cannot be surprised that succeeding grammarians have forgotten; since old Ben, himself, seems to have forgotten it, the very instant it was dismissed from his pen: having absolutely, in the practical illustration of his own axiom, confounded it again, with that very property of *percussive force*, from which he seemed to have separated it for ever.

"Thus, then, by the term *accent*—I mean "the tuning of the voice, by lifting it up and down in the musical scale;" and I mean nothing else. Accents (thus defined) must of necessity be regarded as universal and indispensable properties of syllables: every syllable (whether spoken or sung) being necessarily characterized by a certain portion of

tuneable sound; which must be either higher or lower in an ascertained, or *ascertainable* scale of musical proportions. And, further, it may be stated, that if such syllable be *spoken,* it must not only have its characteristic elevation or depression in such scale; but, also, its motion thro a certain portion of that scale, either upwards or downwards, or both; for if we dwell, during the interval of any syllable, and especially any of the longer syllables, on an uninterrupted monotone, singing, and not speaking, is the consequence. Thus—the accents of speech have not only their distinctions of *high* and *low,* like the notes of common music (though on a scale of more minute division) but have, also, their minute movements, or apparent slides; that is to say—their distinctions of *acute* (′), *grave* (‵), *gravo-acute* (ˇ), *acuto-grave* (^), and of the complicated circumflexes (~‾); some one of which motions of the voice must necessarily take place, during the pronunciation of every syllable (whether the voice, at the commencement of such syllable, be pitched high or low), or the character of *speech* is lost.

"Such are the distinct properties of the *tune* of syllables; in the application of which (as well as of the attribute of *quantity,* or duration) it was my

meaning to affirm—that in many instances, considerable latitude is allowed, in the ordinary conversational delivery, even of the most correct and harmonious speakers; and to the extent of which latitude, (and no further) I consider the *writer* and the *reader* of *verse* to be at liberty, nay to be called upon, to extend his discretionary selection; in whatsoever to the respective provinces of the writer and the repeater can practically belong.

"I am conscious, Sir, that this hasty and imperfect scrawl may expose your compositor to fresh difficulties; and, what is worse, perhaps, from the want of perspicuous and sufficient elucidation of that which is new or difficult in the theory, may rather tend to perplex than to inform the student of English prosody. But the incessant calls of professional duty (as a public and as a private teacher,) forbid me the opportunities not only of a more ample and explicit developement of my ideas, but of the necessary task of revising what I have so hastily set down. It has, indeed, been long my wish to submit to the world a methodical and ample developement of that entire system of elocutionary science, which the labour of ten years has enabled me, in some degree, to digest, tho, at present, it

has no written existence, except in those short notes which have been prepared for the purpose of my public lectures; and which, in reality, can be intelligible to no one but myself. But the publication of a work of such extent is so formidable a speculation; and it is, in fact, so much more profitable to talk to mankind than to write for them, that I am much inclined to believe—that (notwithstanding the disadvantages of detached and partial disquisitions, upon a subject which ought to be examined as a whole,) an occasional hasty essay, like the present, is likely, for some years at least, to be all that attention to the interests of my family will permit me to prepare for publication. I have hopes, however, that a part of what I had meditated, will be executed by an abler hand. My learned and very ingenious correspondent Mr. Roe, of Stramore, in Ireland, will, I trust, oblige the public with his systematic and admirable work on the genius and elements of English metre; and the world will then have little reason to regret that other labours than those of the pen, engross the time and attention of Yours, &c."

Bedford-Place, 7th Dec. 1806.

"P. S. Mr. Roe, mentioned above, has already published an elementary work upon this subject, of great tho neglected merit—"Elements of English Metre, both in Prose and Verse, by Richard Roe," Longman and Rees, 1801, which, perhaps, the more enlarged work he at present meditates, ought not entirely to supersede. To those who are not already initiated in the ordinary system of musical notation, the simple proportions of a measured scale, and the directions for the use of a mechanical index, in the original work, must be highly acceptable; the musical notation adopted in the enlarged dissertation will be, however, much more satisfactory to the scientific student; and the more comprehensive view that is taken of the subject, increases the interest and enhances the value of the performance."

Note 3, *p.* 51.—"This premature operation; never necessary, Dr. Denman says, for the alleged purpose of nutrition."—

The authority I refer to, upon this subject, is the following *Letter to Dr.* BATTY; *published in the Medical and Physical Journal for August,* 1805:—

"DEAR SIR,

"Having been lately informed of two cases of children losing their lives in consequence of cutting what is called the *bridle* of the tongue, by which a fatal hæmorrhage was occasioned, I hope you will excuse my requesting you to insert the following observations on the subject in the Medical and Physical Journal.

"It was formerly an almost universally received opinion, that every child was born tongue-tied. This was a great error; but if a child from mismanagement, or any cause, was incapable of sucking, or indisposed to suck at particular times, or did not suck in the manner the nurse thought right, it was immediately said to be tongue-tied; and the *frænum* of the tongue being, on inspection, observed, the opinion was confirmed. All medical men know that the *frænum* of the tongue is a natural part, intended for the important purposes of preventing the retraction of the tongue beyond a certain degree, and for regulating its actions, particularly that of duly modulating its voice. By cutting the *frænum,* it cannot be doubted but that these advantages are impaired, the enunciation in-

jured, and that which is called speaking thick, *pleno ore,* is occasioned.

" The *frænum* of the tongue is much shorter in some children than in others; but experience has sufficiently proved that when it is apparently short, it will by frequent action be stretched so much as to allow all the necessary and proper motions of the tongue; and even if the *frænum* should confine the end of the tongue, forming a small indention at the extremity, the child would not be hindered from sucking or speaking distinctly, or suffer any inconvenience from it.

" An infant can only use its tongue for sucking, for swallowing its food, and for crying; and the last of these proves that it is not tongue-tied. Nor have I ever met with one instance of a child, in whom it was absolutely necessary to cut the *frænum* of the tongue. I have indeed sometimes done it to satisfy the prejudice of parents, or those who have the care of children; or to prevent its being done by those who might be less careful than myself; but then I have just divided the edge or selvage of the *frænum,* leaving the further division to the action of the tongue; and by this method all danger

has been avoided. Yet I believe it may be justifiable to say, that the *frænum* never requires cutting.

" In so unhappy a case as that of a dangerous hæmorrhage occasioned by cutting the *frænum* of the tongue negligently, ignorantly, or rashly; it would perhaps be impossible to tie the vessels from which the blood was poured, and any application which could be safely employed might fail; yet one would hardly feel satisfied without trying, when all other means had failed, the actual cautery.

" I am, &c.

" Thomas Denman."

July 9, 1805.

These observations of Dr. Denman gave occasion to the following letter; which I immediately communicated, and which was inserted in the ensuing number of that miscellany :—

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

" Gentlemen,

" The professional interest which I necessarily feel in every thing connected with the œconomy of the organs of voice and enunciation, has occasioned me to peruse, with particular satisfaction, the re-

marks of Dr. Denman, in the last number of your miscellany, on the rash and mischievous practice of cutting, during the earliest season of infancy, "what is called the bridle of the tongue." I was not, indeed, aware that consequences so fatal as those which gave rise to Dr. D.'s communication were likely to ensue; but facts enough had fallen under my observation to convince me—that the operation was generally unnecessary, and, so far as related to *the particular object of my inquiry*, more frequently injurious than beneficial; and (in my Lectures on the Causes, Prevention, and Cure of Impediments of Speech) I have, accordingly, not been sparing in my warnings and exhortations against the officiousness of ignorant nurses, in this particular.

"Permit me, however, to observe that, as far as relates to the power of distinct utterance, Dr. D. perhaps, expresses himself rather too generally, when he suggests—"that the frænum *never* requires "cutting." In early infancy, indeed, I can readily admit that it never does; for, if medical gentlemen will answer for the *fact* so far as relates to the operation of *sucking*, I shall not scruple to affirm—that, for *elocutionary purposes*, it can never be ad-

visable to apply the scissars before the *twelfth* or *thirteenth* year;—that is to say, before sufficient time has been allowed for the experiment, whether the natural action of the organs, in the process of enunciative effort and cultivation, will not stretch so far the *constricted* or *protrusive frænum* " as to " allow all the necessary and proper motions of the " tongue." I wish it also to be understood, as my decisive opinion, that if, in the mean time, the organs of enunciation *were judiciously educated,* with a marked attention to the efforts for the formation of the *lingual* elements, the progressive elongation which would inevitably ensue, would be, almost universally, adequate to the object in contemplation. But I am necessitated to declare, that there are some instances in which the degrees of effort and attention *actually applied,* have not been sufficient to produce the elongation of *frænum* and liberty of motion which perfect enunciation requires.

" In a single class of private pupils (from the select Academy of the Rev. Mr. Inchbald of Doncaster) were four different cases, every one of which may, in some way or other, be regarded as illustrative of our present subject.

"One of these young gentlemen had, in reality, suffered by the officiousness of which Dr. D. and myself, alike, complain; so that the tongue, not being sufficiently restricted in its position, had a tendency to advance and coil up in the mouth; and, tho not absolutely intractable to volition, required a much more guarded and precise attention to the regulation of its motions, than is requisite in ordinary cases. His brother (whose original conformation had, at least, been equally unfavourable,—and whose mouth exhibited such a protrusive duplication and reduplication of the *frænum* as I have seldom witnessed) had, fortunately, escaped the malady of a like redress; and the preternatural ligatures had so elongated themselves, as to leave him in possession of powers of utterance—much more likely to be envied for their impressiveness, than censured for imbecility.

"The other two, who were brothers also, had not been equally successful. In the younger of these, a sort of lisp was produced, from the almost utter impossibility of so completely removing the entire edge of the tongue from contact with the lower teeth, as to admit the complete percussion of the sharper sounds; while, in the elder, the stric-

ture was so obstinate as, not merely "to form a "small indentation at the extremity," but even to divide the tongue, in its attempts to advance beyond the teeth, into two thick lobes, which interdicted the complete formation of the element *th*, and imparted a sort of thickness to the whole enunciation. In both these cases, after reiterating every experiment, which, in other instances, I had found efficacious in subduing similar impediments, I was obliged to invite the assistance of the surgeon; whose operation, most assuredly, was considerably assistant to the efficacy of my instructions.

"There is, also, another observation in Dr. Denman's communication, which may, perhaps, be liable to some misapprehension; the statement, I mean, that "what is called speaking thick, *pleno* "*ore*, is occasioned by cutting the *frænum*." In its present unqualified shape, this position is, certainly, much too general; for tho the officiousness of nurses and gossips, in this particular, is *one* of the primary causes of such impediment, yet does not the defect, on one hand, *irremediably* ensue, nor, on the other, does thickness of enunciation necessarily suppose any such peculiarity or injury in the physical state of the organs; two

propositions sufficiently illustrated in the phænomena and successful treatment of the cases above described. In short, speaking thick does sometimes, undoubtedly, arise from too great *laxity*, and sometimes from too rigid restriction of the apex of the tongue; but, in general, like almost every other impediment, it will be found to originate in habitual sluggishness, or evil imitation; and the tongue of the thickest mumbler will frequently be found as perfect in its structure and capabilities as that of the most accomplished elocutionist.

"While I was cultivating my little farm in Wales, before I had ever thought of taking up my present profession, an instance of this presented itself to my observance, which made a deep impression on my mind. Three children of Mr. Griffiths, a hatter, in Brecknock, had contracted such a habit of coiling up the tongue, as rendered their speech almost unintelligible. Their parents had, accordingly, conceived that the boys had a natural impediment,—or, as they expressed it, "that "their mouths were not made like other people's "mouths." From this impression, it is probable that the lads would have been permitted to grow up in the habit of negligent utterance, till it had

ripened into inveterate impediment, if the accident of my going into the shop, to furnish myself with an article I wanted, had not brought me acquainted with the circumstance. Half an hour's attention, however, and the imposition of a very acceptable task (the reiterated pronunciation of a short, ridiculous sentence) enabled me to put them into a train of as intelligible utterance as any of the people by whom they were surrounded.

"To conclude.—Let it not be supposed, upon one hand, that wherever there is a thickness of utterance, or indistinct enunciation, there must necessarily be any defect in the physical state of the organs; or, on the other,—that, even where the *frænum* has been injudiciously separated, or the tongue, from any other circumstance, is more loosely situated in the mouth than usual, that a mumbling fulness must inevitably exist. *Natural impediments* (properly understood) are, indeed, exceedingly rare. Deafness and mental imbecility excepted,—they can only originate from extreme obstinacy of stricture in the *frænum*, from hare-lip, from malconformation of the jaw, or from fissure of the roof and obliteration of the *uvula;* and even of these, fortunately, there is not one which is beyond

the reach and medicature of human art; or which may not yield to the cooperative influence of elocutionary and physiological science.

" Yours, &c.

" *Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, August* 6, 1805."

Note 4, *p.* 84.—" Institution——for the education of the Deaf and Dumb."

Every thing that relates to the Institutions for the education of the Deaf and Dumb, and to the great apostle of those institutions, will, of course, have some interest. The following communications to another miscellany, is, therefore, reprinted; as well as for the purpose of further elucidating the distinction insisted upon in the text.

Correction of Mistakes relative to the Abbé de l'Epée.

" *To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.*

" Sir,

" Your numerous readers have, of course, been highly gratified by the perusal of Mr. Mann's communications relative to the Institutions for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. To me, at least, they have been particularly interesting; for

altho (for reasons hereafter to be explained,) I do not interfere (at least, as *domesticated* pupils)—with the treatment of the absolutely deaf, yet, the subject is intimately connected with one to which a considerable portion of my attention is devoted; and nothing which promises to throw new light upon the science of surmounting organic deficiences, can be indifferent to me.

" But, while I make my acknowledgements to Mr. Mann, for the entertainment derived from his two papers, in the Monthly Magazine of June and August last, he will, perhaps, excuse me, if I suggest the possibility—that, in some two or three particulars, he may happen to have been misinformed.

" In the first place, he seems to suppose—that the sole object of the work published by Bonet, in 1620, was to " teach the deaf and dumb to think " and write, and learn useful arts," without aspiring to the communication of the power of speech. Not being acquainted with the Spanish language, I am not capable of answering for the contents of the book; but the title is, I believe, *Reduction de las Letras, y Arte para ensennar à hablar los Mudos.* It professes, therefore, to teach the dumb to speak;

and the Abbé de l'Epée, expressly informs us, in his "Method of Teaching the Deaf and Dumb," that it was from this very book, and Amman's *Dissertatio de Loquelâ Surdorum et Mutorum,* that he first derived the suggestions, that ultimately enabled him to teach his deaf and dumb pupils to speak. Having procured the first of these books, "I im- "mediately resolved," says he, "to make myself mas- "ter of the Spanish, that I might be able to render "my pupils so great a service;" and, shortly afterwards, having obtained the second, also, "by the "light of these two," (continues this noble and enlightened enthusiast) "I soon discovered—how to "proceed, in order to cure, in part at least, one of "the two infirmities of my scholars. Their works "are two torches, which have lighted my footsteps; "but I have taken the route which appeared to me "the shortest and easiest, in the application of their "principles." What that route was, he proceeds to show us, in the second part of his truly valuable work, "The Method of Educating the Deaf and "Dumb." *(See Eng. Trans. Cadell,* 1801.)

"How, therefore, your correspondent could have fallen into the second, and more important

mistake, that " the Abbé gave up every attempt to " become master of the theory of teaching the dumb " to speak," I am at a loss to conjecture.

" That he did master both the theory and the practice, the evidence is complete and copious; and he appears to have improved and simplified it to such a degree, that he would frequently undertake " with men of learning, that he would make " them proficients in it, in the space of half an hour."

" Before I had to instruct the multitude of deaf " and dumb, that have been successively pressed upon " me, my own application to the rules here laid down " proved so effective, as to enable Lewis Francis Ga- " briel de Clement de la Pujade to pronounce, in " public, a Latin discourse of five pages and a half; " and, in the ensuing year, to lay down a definition " of philosophy, detail proofs of its accuracy, and " defend it in regular disputation, answering, in all " scholastic forms, the objections offered against it " by Francis Elizabeth John de Didier, one of his " fellow-students. I, also, enabled another deaf and " dumb scholar to repeat aloud to his mistress, the " twenty-eight chapters of the Gospel according " to St. Matthew, and to recite the morning ser- " vice along with her every Sunday."

" It is true, indeed, that, after the number of the Abbé de l'Epée's pupils began very much to increase, he found it impracticable to give up so large a portion of his own time, as would have been necessary to instruct each of them, individually, in the practice of speech; this province, therefore, was resigned to other tutors, whom he had previously initiated; while he devoted himself to what appeared the more important, and were, certainly, the more difficult, parts of his system of instruction. Still, however, it appears—that the generality of his pupils were taught to speak; and the controversy between the venerable Abbé and Professor Heinich, was not, simply whether it were better to teach the deaf and dumb to speak by the exercise of the organs of enunciation, or by the language of methodical signs; (if it had, perhaps, the justice of the decision of the Academy of Zurich might have been called in question,) but whether the system of education by methodical signs, connecting, in the very steps of tuition, the particular treatment of the organic defect of his pupils, with the exercise and developement of the understanding, as practised by the Abbé, or the mechanical system of dactylology, &c. adopted, or

invented by his opponent, were more advantageous to the deaf and dumb.

" What then are we to say to the supposed correspondence between the Abbé and Mr. Thomas Braidwood? and how has Mr. M. been misled, (for that he is misled, in this particular, scarcely admits a question) into the statement in page 9 of your Magazine for August, of the lamentation of the Abbé over the impossibility of his undertaking a voyage to England, to take lessons from Mr. Braidwood in person; and his consequently giving up every attempt to become master of the theory of teaching the dumb to speak?

" Did any correspondence, on this subject, ever take place between these enlightened professors? and has the purport been inaccurately reported to Mr. M.? or has the whole story originated in some confused misrepresentation of part of the correspondence between the Parisian and the Leipsic professor? Something that looks very like a foundation for this story, does, certainly, in that controversy, appear. " In order to confer with you " respecting my method of educating the deaf and " dumb," (says S. Heinich) "and disclose something " of the invention, it is indispensably necessary—

" that you learn the mode of tuition from myself, " which would require you to live upon the spot " with me, at least half a year." To which the Abbé replied, that (without the preliminary of accepting this invitation) " he would be bound, not " to *learn*, but to *teach*," the whole mystery of the learned professor, " to any rational creature, en- " dowed with the faculty of hearing."

" It is clear then, at least, that in the year 1782, the Abbé l'Epée would never have lamented the impossibility of his taking a voyage to England, to learn the art and mystery of teaching the deaf to speak: an art which the publications of Wallis and Holder, in England, and, as it should seem, those of Bonet, Helmont, and Amman, in their respective countries, had, in a considerable degree, developed, more than a century before; and which the Abbé himself has so happily completed and explained.

" There is, also, another point, relative to " the " munificence of the Bourbons," towards the Abbé de l'Epée and his institutions, that requires clearing up. The testimony of Mr. Mann, and that of the translator of the Abbé's Method of Educating, &c. are, in this respect, directly opposite to each other.

Mr. M. says—that " the expenses attending the " education of the pupils admitted into the Abbé's " Institution, were defrayed by the paternal bounty " of the government of his country, which granted " him a liberal recompense besides." The English translator asserts—that, " not content with the " rejection of presents and profits, which he had " no wants nor passions to make necessary," he carried his enthusiastic benevolence to such an extent, that " the expenses attending the seminary " which he established, were wholly defrayed by " himself. He inherited an income, as M. de " Bouilly informs us, amounting to fourteen thou- " sand livres (nearly six hundred pounds sterling), " of which he allowed two thousand for his own " person, and considered the residue as the patri- " mony of the deaf and dumb, to whose use it was " faithfully applied." And, upon the authority of the same M. de Bouilly, the translator further relates—that, when " the Russian ambassador at Paris " made the Abbé a visit, in the year 1780, and of- " fered him a present in money proportioned to the " customary magnificence of the empress, the " Abbé declined accepting it, saying, he never re- " ceived gold from any one; but that, since his

" labours had obtained him the esteem of the em-
" press, he begged she would send a deaf and dumb
" person to him, to be educated."

" Such appear, upon pretty good evidence, to have been the sentiments upon which the great benefactor of the deaf and dumb uniformly acted: sentiments which ought not to be defrauded of that portion of admiration to which they are entitled. In vindicating the character of the Abbé from what I suspect to be a misrepresentation, I do not, however, mean to be regarded as recommending his conduct, in this respect, to imitation. Perhaps even in his own instance, it had more of the enthusiasm, than the efficacy of virtue; for the man, who, like him, out of an income of six hundred pounds a-year, appropriates upwards of four hundred to a specific charity, in which his own incessant labour is also employed, might assuredly enlarge the sphere of his utilities, by accepting the liberal remunerations of the opulent, and the well-merited bounties of empresses and kings. At any rate, such enthusiasm can only be commendable in those who are already in possession of independent fortunes; and who, like the Abbé de l'Epée, either by vows of religion, or some other circumstance, are absolved

from the cares and the duties of the more immediate relationships of life. Perhaps, there is not a more extensively useful axiom, even among the precepts of religion, than that which upholds—that the labourer is worthy of his hire; and I strongly suspect—that neither the pride nor the refinement that induce particular individuals systematically to reject this hire, are to be ranked among the prejudices that are ultimately beneficial to society. At the same time, with respect to my own immediate pursuit, I cannot but occasionally lament—that no national institution, no incorporated benevolence, no "paternal bounty of government," enables me to extend the influence of my labours and discoveries, beyond the circles of at least comparative opulence.

"Having dwelt thus long, with no intention of detracting from the merits of a paper by which I confess myself to have been highly interested and instructed, on some of the statements of fact, which appear to want revision, Mr. M. will, I hope, excuse me, if I proceed, in a future number, to combat the practical application of one of his doctrinal statements; namely, the identity of the means to be adopted in the education of the deaf and dumb,

and of persons who labour under impediments of speech:—a doctrine which I mean to object to, even to such an extent, as to expose the absolute impropriety of suffering those two classes to join together in the same exercises, or mingle in the same seminary. &c.

"*Bedford-Place, Sept.* 24, 1807."

On the Treatment of Impediments, and of the Deaf and Dumb.—To the same.

"I proceed to the fulfilment of my recent promise, by making some animadversions on the supposed identity of the means for the education of the deaf, and of persons afflicted with impediments: so far, at least, as that doctrine may seem to countenance the practice of educating those distinct classes of unfortunate persons in the same seminaries.

"I admit, indeed, that the science of *teaching* the dumb to speak, and that of removing impediments, are, in many respects, very intimately allied; and that "the same species of knowledge, upon "which depends the instruction of the absolutely "deaf," *in the art of speaking*, "is indispensably ne-"cessary to correct" *by far the greater number* of

" defects or impediments of utterance ; " but it does " not, therefore, follow—that " whoever possesses " the art of teaching the deaf to speak, is, from " that reason, competent to correct every species of " existing impediment."

" Even exclusively of those defects " which " arise from the loss," *or malconformation,* " of one " or more of the requisite organs," and which all writers upon this subject (that I have met with) so decisively, but so *erroneously,* assert " are susceptible " of no remedy," there are classes of impediment that require a mode of treatment, which it is physically impracticable to apply to the instruction of the deaf.

" The judicious instructor of the deaf-born dumb must be qualified, undoubtedly, in a very considerable degree, for the correction of all such impediments as depend, exclusively, upon the actions of the *enunciative* organs: nor can any person be qualified to correct such defects, without the knowledge, which, if properly applied, might teach the deaf *to speak.* But are there not impediments (and those, too, of the most formidable and afflictive description) with which the want of precision, in the positions and actions of the enun-

ciative organs, will be found to have little to do? Impediments which are, evidently, almost exclusively vocal—which *appear* to result from spasm or constriction in the primary passage of the voice, or from some species of local convulsion, affecting particular parts of that complicated apparatus upon which the phænomena of vocal sound depend? But how little the real sources of impediment are in general understood, will be obvious to those who have had the opportunity of observing that even these very impediments, so merely and exclusively vocal, are seldom if ever found to affect the voice in singing. If such impediments were really dependant upon mere organic or constitutional defects, these contradictory phænomena could never occur. Are not the impediments I have just described, together with the whole class of those that affect the *tone* and *tune* of speech, evidently dependant upon circumstances with which the mode of treatment necessary for the deaf can have no possible connection? Are not some of them the consequences even of habits of imitation, which deafness must of necessity preclude, and with which the teacher of the deaf can, therefore, have nothing to do?

"I will go further:—there are some species of

minor defect and impediment (and monotony and offensive peculiarities of tone and tune are among the number) which, without appeal to the sense of hearing, can never be removed; and with which accordingly, in the speech of the deaf-born dumb, we contentedly dispense. In such cases, intelligible distinctness is all that we expect; and if this be attained, thankful to that benignant art which has accomplished so much, we rest satisfied with the dispensation which precludes the higher excellences of a varied and expressive modulation. But he who, *in case of impediment,* would stop, where Nature, with an insurpassable barrier, has fixed the limits of vocal attainment to the deaf, is not qualified for this department; since there are impediments—nay, perhaps, since *all impediments* are best surmounted (even in what relates to the primary requisites of facility and intelligibleness) by aiming at the highest graces of *rhetorical emphasis* and *harmonic inflection:* to which the deaf must for ever be as insensible as the blind, to prismatic colours.

" The deep *nasality,* for example, of the late Mr. Bensley, the sepulchral *pectoralism* of Mr. Kemble, the overstrained *maxillarism* of Master Betty, and all the caricatured defects of their inju-

dicious imitators, might be classed among the minor impediments of voice; or, at least, among those ill habits of vocal action, the excesses of which (like the excesses of all other ill habits of utterance) would ultimately amount to impediment. [In the attempt to mark these distinctions, I am obliged to make use of *new terms;* because I am treating of a *subject* that is new to critical analysis. The terms *nasality* and *pectoralism* will speak for themselves. By *maxillarism,* is to be understood the excess of that species of tone produced in the cells and sinuses of the jaws and contiguous parts of the head. An excess of this description is the more offensive in the age of boyhood, because some of the organs that most contribute to the pleasing modulation of these tones are not then expanded].

" These, and such like habitual defects, in the *tone* and *character* of the voice, in all their respective gradations, it is the province of the professor who undertakes the cure of impediments, to remove; and I shall venture to pronounce, that, by means of the inductions of anatomical analysis, by minute attention to the process and modifications of vocal action, and by accurate and reiterated comparison of other consentaneous sensations with

the perceptions of the well-cultivated ear, they might be effectually removed: while, at the same time, without such comparisons, and such appeals to the sense of hearing (with which the teacher of the deaf can have no concern), no impediment whatever, if deeply complicated with such ill habits of vocal action, can ever be effectually and permanently subdued. But cases of this complicated description are generally set down to the account of *constitutional defect:* a term, which, at once, with great convenience, covers ignorance, and excuses neglect. The unhappy victim is accordingly consigned to effortless despair, and not unfrequently to consequent vacancy and imbecility of mind: for such must be the lot of him, who, with an impediment in his speech, is consigned to the superintendence, or rather to the neglect and mockery, of an ordinary school.

"Thus, must the treatment of impediment, frequently, begin, where Nature has fixed the very utmost limits of the practicability of instruction to the deaf: for it would be wonderful indeed, if, by any imaginable application to any or all the inlets of perception, compatible with deafness, it were

possible to produce even the restricted modulation of a Kemble or a Bensley.

[It is hoped that nothing in this illustration will be considered as personally disrespectful to a justly celebrated actor, who, in many of the highest requisites of his profession (among his own sex, at least,) stands unrivalled in his generation. The defect of his voice, and somewhat too much of uniformity in the measure of his cadences, are, perhaps, the only sources of essential blemish in his acting; for the former of which he is most assuredly not so much indebted to any irremediable unkindness of physical nature, as to the misfortune of living in an age when the *science* of vocal expression is so completely unknown, that it has not even been suspected that any such *science* was among the possibilities of analytical discovery. But what the studies and erudition of the brother could not discover as a science, has been *practically* revealed to the more acute *perceptions* of the sister; who, superadding to his just discrimination of character and sentiment, the apparently magic powers of an exquisite modulation, and a finely varied tune of speech, is enabled, in many of her characters, to realize that

ideal perfection of imitative art, which surpasses nature itself, without becoming unnatural. What pity that this fine harmonist had not been so far acquainted with the theory and mystery of her own peculiar art, as to have communicated it (for that it might have been communicated is certain) at least to the circle of her own family!]

"In the stress I lay upon the *education of the ear,* in the treatment of impediments of speech, I do not merely argue from the well-known sympathy between the perceptive and the executive organs, or that important axiom of experimental science, the necessity of correcting the impressions of one sense by the evidence of others. My inductions are drawn from facts and actual observation. In my own particular practice, I have derived considerable assistance from an application of the principles of musical *inflection* and *proportion,* and from a system of demonstration that appeals at once to the perceptions of the three distinct senses of touch, sight, and hearing.

"As far as relates to proportion, indeed, the speech of the deaf might be regulated with sufficient accuracy, and the cadences, or alternations of *Thesis* and *Arsis,* might be as distinctly and accu-

rately formed by them, as by the person who has hearing. It is, indeed, highly interesting to observe how far, in this respect, the perceptions of the deaf can go. I was once exceedingly entertained by seeing Mr. Arrowsmith (the deaf and dumb miniature painter, to whom I suppose Mr. Mann, in his communications, to have alluded) beat time to the instruments, at a public concert, with the greatest accuracy; and by seeing him, afterwards, dance, for several hours, with so lively and expressive a perception of *time*, as to surpass, in promptitude and accuracy of movement, almost every individual in the group: nay, such was his superiority in this respect, that he actually, by his attentions, assisted every individual who came near him in the dance, and contributed to keep them in the same regularity of step and figure with himself. But all this, and all that (in the perceptions of the deaf) could be connected with this, would not suffice to correct the *accent*, properly so called (that is to say, "the tuning of the voice by lifting it up and down in the musical scale."—*Ben Jonson's Gram.*) would not improve the *tune*, or regulate *tones* of the voice; with which, as I have already suggested, so large a class of impediments will be found to be connected.

" But, if there be something connected with the art of removing impediments, that has no sort of reference to the instruction of the deaf, it is still more important explicitly to point out—that there is something, also, nay much, that is connected with the necessary instruction of the deaf, with which, in the management of impediments, we must resolutely determine to have nothing whatever to do. Speech, however perfectly they may attain it, must for ever be, to the deaf, a very imperfect and limited source of communication and intelligence. They must of necessity have another language: and for their use, the benignant genius of successive professors has, accordingly, been employed, in inventing and maturing the systems of dactylology, and of methodical and expressive signs.

" To what admirable purposes, in the education of the deaf dumb, these may be applied, has been amply manifested in the labours of the Abbé de l'Epée, Sicard, and others: but within the walls of a seminary for the cure of impediments, or the instruction of those, who, without being deaf, are speechless, no such systems, nor any modifications of the language of pantomime, should ever, in the least, be tolerated.

" The very existence of *impediment,* properly understood, is a proof, (and the existence of *speechlessness,* where there is no defect of hearing, is a proof still stronger,)—that the imitative faculty stands in need of regulation and assistance from some more powerful stimulus, than the mere supposed invincible propensity to imitation. Every precaution should, therefore, be taken, that the pupil of this description may be constantly surrounded by such circumstances as necessitate him to give that faculty the direction required. He should feel, on every occasion, the privations that result from his defect, and the impossibility of avoiding those privations, by any substitute for the cultivation of the organs in which the defect resides.

" How disastrous for the poor savage of Aveyron, was the fatal mistake of placing him in an hospital for the deaf and dumb !

" I am in possession of many facts, well authenticated, which prove, beyond all question, that *speechlessness* has sometimes been caused by an early initiation into the language of signs, and the promptitude of those around to comprehend and to obey the mute mandates of the early dactylologist. If so, the language of signs, so important to the edu-

cation of the deaf, should, assuredly, be excluded with the utmost jealousy, from every seminary established for the education of those who are merely afflicted with impediments or defects in the organs of voice and enunciation. Far be from them the seductions of that substituted eloquence which speaks to the eye alone. Rather let the youth of tardy and imperfect utterance dwell and associate in those mansions only, where the voice of harmony for ever flows; where all instructions are communicated, and all the intercourses of life endeared, by the well-modulated periods of a graceful and animated oratory; and where all around are purposely and systematically blind to the subterfuges of dactylology and gestures,

"*Bedford-place, Dec. 9,* 1807."

Note p. 122.—Distinction of "Natural" and "Moral Idiot"—In addition to the papers inserted in the text, and many invaluable hints, I am indebted to Mr. Gough for the following

Communication on the subject of Alpine Idiocy, &c.

"Sir,

"I have perused Dr. Abercrombie's Inaugural

Dissertation on Alpine Idiotism, and, along with it, Sir Richard Clayton's Essay on the same subject; which may be seen in the third volume of the Manchester Memoirs. These productions contain nearly the same facts; the malady, described by the Baronet and the Doctor, is called Cretinage, and the persons afflicted with it are denominated Cretins. Cretinage is a local complaint, being confined to certain valleys of mountainous districts; in which the atmosphere is laden with noxious vapours, for want of ventilation. The disease is very common in the lower valleys, according to both writers. Dr. Abercrombie does not restrict it to the Alps; for he finds instances of it in the Pyrenean hills, Les Cevennes, of France, and some narrow valleys of Tartary. They both agree in describing a Cretin as a diminutive being, whose stature rarely exceeds four feet and a half; he is not more remarkable for the imperfections of his mind, than those of his body, his intellectual powers being not less incomplete than his senses and several of his corporeal functions. His appetites may be said to be beastly; for he is stimulated by no inclinations, but such as either contribute to his support or to the perpetuation of idiotism.

Cretinage is more or less perfect in different subjects, if the term perfection can be applied with propriety to this deplorable state of the human constitution. This fact has led Dr. Abercrombie to divide the idiots, whom he describes, into six classes; of which I am going to give you an abridged account. The first is the absolute Cretin, or genuine idiot of the Alps. He has nothing human in him, but the figure of a man; and this is not a little deformed. When arrived at maturity, his stature varies from four to five feet. Before the prime of life, he is of a pale or umber colour, but becomes swarthy in a more advanced age. His muscles are of the common size, but very flaccid, and inadequate to their functions. His head is small, compared with the rest of the body; the upper part of it is not sufficiently convex; particularly the occiput does not project upwards in due proportion. His face is flat and nearly square, his eyes small, sunk in the sockets, and nearly concealed under the projecting forehead. In other cases, which occur but seldom, they are large and prominent. His cheeks are loose and pendulous. His eye-lids and lips are tumid. Idiots of this description are generally seen gaping. His stupid

face, for he cannot be said to have a countenance, expresses nothing but a want of understanding. He has, for the most part, more or less appearance of the goitre about him. His breast is narrow and flat, resembling that of a duck. His fingers long and slender. His feet unnaturally broad, and twisted in some persons outwards and in others inwards. Moreover, these idiots neither enjoy their senses nor voluntary functions in perfection. They are mute; —in many instances, they are nearly deaf. Their taste and smell are equally imperfect. Their sense of touch is so blunt, that, tho they prefer warmth to cold, they frequently appear to disregard the excesses of both, as well as blows and other external injuries. Their sight, according to some authors, is good, but, by the bye, Sir R. Clayton contradicts this assertion. Being perfectly incurious, they constantly frequent the same places, namely, those where they usually bask in the sun, and receive food. They spend most of the winter in the chimney corner. Their posture is commonly upright, with their arms hanging down and their mouths standing open. They always go and come by the same way, and are too ignorant to avoid an approaching danger by turning out of the road.

The demands of Nature are, with them, the only incitements to motion; and a few idiots, it is said, exercise no functions but those which relate to repletion and evacuation. Beings of this description have no right to the name of moral agents: they are perfect strangers to right and wrong, to honour and disgrace; and as for their notions of beauty, they cannot distinguish by the eye, things that are straight from those that are crooked.

"Their pleasures are of a nature which forbids me to follow the Doctor in English; who concludes his horrible description by remarking, that a genuine Alpine idiot possesses a spark of life, barely sufficient to prevent the putrefaction of his body.

"Idiots of the second description have their senses and powers of motion in somewhat greater perfection than those of the first class; most of them can sound the vowels but not the consonants; which circumstance principally distinguishes them from absolute idiots. The moral character of the latter is actually worse than that of the former; for they are not only ignorant of the social virtues, but would be intolerable in society, on account of their

peevishness, did not the prejudices of their countrymen excuse them; who commonly suppose, they are sent into the world to suffer for the sins of the people.

"Infants, that are destined to be idiots, are distinguishable at their birth; their bodies are swollen as if distended by air; some of them are born with water in their heads or with goitres. They learn to suck with difficulty, and they are less attentive to sounds and other external stimulants than infants in general are. They are fed by their friends like new-born children, to the age of puberty; at which time they begin to walk and to use their hands.

"Idiots of the third class hear and articulate with some degree of correctness, but are ignorant of right and wrong, and the social virtues. They remember past transactions, and make some rude attempts at imitation; but they are so destitute of mental arrangement that they never can be taught to count their fingers.

"The fourth class comprises idiots who understand what they say to others, and what others say to them; but who cannot be taught to read and write. Those of the fifth class learn to read and

write; but they do not understand what they read; nor are their written productions intelligible to others.

"Idiots of the sixth class are not so dull of understanding but that they have an idea of property, and can make bargains. They, also, can name the letters, and spell words; and they, likewise, understand the meaning of written language, as far as it expresses things in common use. It is, also, possible to teach them to express in writing their own wants, and other things not exceeding their capacities. Some few of them attempt to be poets, and make verses; which are mere prose, in all respects excepting metre; being destitute of all energy both of thought and diction. Some idiots of this description have made surprising advances not only in painting, engraving and architecture, but also in music;—performing with skill both on stringed and wind instruments. Nevertheless, they rarely make discoveries in these arts; but, being diligent imitators, they take faithfuller copies of other men's inventions than those taken by the inventors themselves; persons of this description have been known to form the exactest representation of the most complex machine, after seeing it but once: moreover

they recollect objects, occurrences and sayings, much better than persons of sound understandings; by whom they are far surpassed in capacity. But they never can be taught the properties of numbers and the science of arithmetic. Idiots of this sort remain for the most part destitute of foresight and prudence thro life; being incapable of regulating their own conduct, as well as of following the advice of wiser people. They form but a bad judgement of virtue and vice, of honour and disgrace, of justice and injustice; they are, besides, quarrelsome, cheats, dissemblers, and to the list of their bad qualities may be added cowardice and excessive indolence; nor have they the least sense of those social affections which are the ground works of society, nor of that elevation of mind, which ennobles the brave and virtuous. Alpine idiots of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes, are all capable of receiving a greater or less degree of improvement from education. They are more numerous in poor than rich families; because their parents cannot procure for them the instruction of which they are susceptible. On the contrary, idiots of the first and second class are more frequently found in opulent families; which the Doctor

ascribes to the intermarriages of persons of this description, which are formed by mercenary parents.

" Dr. Abercrombie's six gradations of mental imbecility appear to be carefully collected from good authorities. A circumstantial abridgement of the first class is given in the present letter; the sixth is translated in full; and the striking particulars of the intermediate paragraphs are preserved. My reasons for giving a full length portrait of idiotism in its last stage, perhaps, may be obvious to you: for I cannot consider an idiot of this description otherwise than a character depraved by the negligence and prejudices of his guardians, joined to the bad examples of naturals, to which his infancy has been exposed. Such an idiot has, evidently, judgement sufficient to cheat and dissemble: that is, he knows enough of the moral tie to evade the obligations of it, by cunning, when the evasion suits his interest. What does such a person require, to make him a good moralist, besides a due sense of honour and a proper esteem for himself? These powerful motives have not been implanted in his mind by restraint and education; because his friends and countrymen at large supposed him incapable of feeling their force; and his knavish disposition has been

encouraged by private as well as public connivance. A character of this sort is on a level, in some instances, with a savage, and excels him in others. As soon as a savage discovers the superiority of an European, he becomes a coward, and, ignorant of the ties of honour, has recourse to fraud and dissimulation. Few savages have any just notions of property and commerce; nevertheless we do not accuse uncivilized nations of idiotism, but of ignorance, arising from the want of instruction. Why then do we refuse to extend the same excuse and indulgence to the Cretin of the sixth degree, who appears to be left destitute of education from a national prejudice? He certainly possesses various mental powers, which are probably brought to light by accident; he has a good memory; the imitative faculty is strong in him; and I see no reason why a person should be unable to perceive the beauty of moral truth, who can comprehend and admire the fine arts, and copy the productions of the best masters. The general opinion, however, appears to be, that Cretins, of every description, are incapable of being taught to distinguish right from wrong; and that they remain, on this account, ignorant of the social duties; but a comparison of this doctrine

with the sixth degree of Alpine idiotism will certainly lead the philosopher to a very singular conclusion. It will oblige him to suppose the human mind to be divided into a variety of departments; in each of which a particular function of the intellect is generated and exercised; that these several sections of the soul are collected into one system, and put into action by a common first mover, the memory. He must, also, be persuaded that Nature neglects, in the formation of a few individuals, to produce the parts necessary to certain functions of the mind; in the same manner as she seems to forget, in other instances, to give birth to certain limbs and organs, without detriment to the rest. But this hypothesis comprises a train of concessions, to which few philosophers would subscribe, since the time of Simon Browne mentioned by the Adventurer; who imagined that his animal faculties survived his rational soul; which was annihilated in his lifetime by the will of the Almighty. It may be objected to the notion I have adopted, relative to the best sort of Cretins, and other idiots, that the prejudice of a nurse or guardian could not prevent those improvements in an infant, which proceed on principles that are obvious; because they are in

universal practice. But morality must be engrafted on the mind by precept and authority, before the judgement can see the beauty and worth of it. The necessity of laws demonstrates the propriety of this assertion; for laws are mere human contrivances to protect the most important rights of society; whilst the finer ramifications of the social tie are preserved by the love of honour and the dread of infamy. The Cretin observes the law; he must be taught to do so; because robbery and murder cannot be tolerated: but public opinion permits him to be contemptible; he is therefore a cheat and a dissembler. On the other hand, prejudice is a pernicious error in a parent or nurse; and is easily transferred from the tutor to the pupil. This neighbourhood affords a very remarkable instance of the foregoing proposition. There is an aged woman who picks up a scanty livelihood by selling tea-bread about the country: I had often heard that she uniformly refused to taste animal food. In order to learn the history of this singular and obstinate aversion, I one day invited her to dine off a dish, which very few natives of England dislike; but she declined the offer, and at the same time informed me that she never ate butcher's meat, fowl

or fish, in the course of her life. The reason assigned for this singular whim was, that her mother could not bear the sight of animal food, some time before her birth, and that this aversion of the parent became hereditary in her own person. She moreover told me, by way of proof, of this strange notion, that a piece of meat was put into her mouth in early infancy; upon which she manifested her antipathy to it, by rolling it about for a time, and then thrusting it out with her tongue. Since that time her diet had consisted of potatoes, bread, and milk; with the addition of cheese and butter; which, tho of animal origin, did not exite the aversion of her mother, during pregnancy. The preceding is an instance of prejudice preventing an infant from acting on principles, which are obvious, because they are in general practice.

"The inhabitants of the Alps consider the most sensible Cretins to be incapable of comprehending the properties of numbers; altho they are known to possess strong memories, and can make observations, so as to recollect the various parts of a machine, and the mutual relations of them. Now these qualities require nothing but practice to make an arithmetician: for the art of compounding and

resolving numbers depends wholly upon observation and memory; by the first we find out the principles of addition and subtraction: we afterwards learn to repeat the multiplication table, which is the groundwork of the remaining fundamental rules of the science: I mean multiplication and division.

"I formerly knew a man of very weak abilities, who nevertheless was a good ready reckoner. All his operations were performed by memory; for he was ignorant of figures and letters. This singular character resided near Shap, in this county; he was first introduced to me by a workman in the employment of my father, as a person equally remarkable for his knowledge of numbers and his ignorance in other affairs. Before the interview, I considered myself to be a good mental accomptant; but I was surprised to find my superior in a man who passed for a fool; and who was so, certainly, in many respects. His manners and way of life were perfectly simple at that time, and a pipe of tobacco constituted his only luxury. But, not long after, he lost his serenity of temper; for he was compelled, I believe, by the parish, to remove to Penrith, where he was employed in turning a lathe. In this new situation, he acquired a relish for animal food; in

consequence of which he became discontented; for his scanty income, together with his earnings, proved inadequate to the demands of his voracious appetite. The same cause also prevented him from continuing his visits to Kendal; for his friends in this place being but in low circumstances could not support the expense of his company. You will think by this time I have made a long letter; which is, in fact, the case; for I wish you to consider the subject of idiotism very attentively, and am desirous of contributing what lies in my power to the investigation of the phænomenon.

"JOHN GOUGH.

"*Middleshaw, Dec. 7,* 1804."

Some Account of the Institution for the Improvement of Elocution, and Completion of an accomplished Education.

As the major part of the present volume has reference only to a particular part of the professional practice of the Author—it may be necessary to state—that the Institution established in

Bedford-place, has not for its object, merely, the removal of Impediments and Defects of Speech, or the remedy of apparent deficiencies of Intellect:—cases of which last description, indeed, when marked and palpable, are not admitted within the walls of the establishment; but are only objects of professional superintendence, in the families where such misfortunes may occur. The instructions of the seminary are, also, extended to the foreigner, and to the statesman and the professional student, and a diligent attention is paid to every department of Elocution, Composition, Criticism, and Polite Literature. In short, provision is made for conducting, with consistency, the entire process of a liberal education—from the preparation of the infant mind for the profitable reception of the first seeds of erudition, to the incitement of the energies of maturer genius, and the cultivation of the finishing accomplishments of the gentleman, the statesman, and the orator.

The following is a brief enumeration of the several descriptions of Pupils, that may be accommodated, by domestication, in the Institution:

1. Gentlemen designed for the Pulpit, Bar, Se-

nate, or different departments of active or public life.

2. Foreigners, &c. desirous of attaining the Idiom and Pronunciation of the English Language; and of being made acquainted with the beauties of English Literature, and the principles of English Composition.

3. Gentlemen with Impediments or Imperfections of Utterance; whether proceeding from constitutional, mental, or moral causes, from habit and imitation, or from defects in the organs of speech.

4. Junior Pupils, of the two latter descriptions, of either sex, from four years old to twelve, are received under the immediate care and instruction of Mrs. T., and are initiated in every essential part of English Education, and in the rudiments of the French, Latin, and Italian Languages.

5. Young gentlemen, of the same descriptions, from twelve to fifteen, are instructed by the members of the family, under the direction and superintendence of Mr. Thelwall.

The more adult pupils are under the exclusive superintendence of Mr. T.

Pupils of all the respective descriptions are, also,

privately attended at stated hours, either at the Institution, or at their own houses; and Plans of Study are furnished, and the prosecution of them directed, with particular reference to such branches of useful attainment as are not generally attended to in our Universities; or to such objects as may be applicable to the particular views or deficiencies of the respective pupils.

Advice also is given by Mr. T. in all cases of Amentia, and mental and organic defects,—the propriety or necessity of operations, in cases of mal-conformation, and the structure and application of artificial organs.

Further particulars will be found, at large, in the Plan and Terms of Instruction—which may be had of the publishers of this work: the following paper will give some idea of one of the ramifications of Mr. T.'s plan of Instruction.

The Historical and Oratorical Society.

(Reprinted from the Monthly Magazine, Sep. 1809.*)*

" Sir,

" As your interesting and useful publication has been the vehicle, thro which the plan and ob-

jects of my institution for the Cure of Impediments, and the Cultivation of English Elocution, have been announced to the world, from the first public dawnings of my discoveries, I have felt a natural propensity, thro the same medium, occasionally to announce its progress, and the successive developement of my design. It will naturally occur to you, Sir, that to a professor of the science and practice of elocution, a very ample field of inquiry and of instruction is, in reality, laid open; and tho, in the first instance, I have deemed it adviseable to lay the principal stress, in all my public announcements, on that part of my plan which relates to the removal of impediments, and the instruction of foreigners,—as objects, tho only of particular application, yet of the most prominent and serious importance; yet, neither in meditation nor in practice, have my views been confined to the mere circumstance of enabling my pupils to read with distinctness and propriety, and speak without obstruction or offensive peculiarity. Even before I adopted the profession of a public teacher, I had clearly perceived, what practice has since demonstrated, the universality of the application of the general principles of elocution: that from the stea-

of physiological analysis (to which every part of my system for the treatment of impediments is referred) naturally spring, not only the blossoms of graceful and harmonious utterance, in conversation and reading, but the matured and invigorating fruits of oratorical energy and impressiveness; nay, that even the arrangements and flow of language (in composition as well as speech) have a connection and dependance on the cultivation of the faculty of oral utterance:—the improvement of the nice perceptions of the ear, and a judicious attention to the action of the organs, in the formation and combinations of the elements of spoken language, having an ultimate operation on the memory and imagination, in the recurrence, selection, and arrangement, of such words as enter into combination with the greatest facility and effect.

"This view of my subject led me to consider the application of my principles to all the higher purposes and ultimate objects of a liberal education;—to the last finishing and accomplishment of the studies of those ingenuous youths, who look upwards to the most eligible situations of active and public life. And when I critically examined the educational establishments, public and private, of

my age and country, I thought I perceived—that an institution that would properly embrace these objects, was yet to be regarded as a desideratum. That oratory (tardy in its growth, and imperfect in its developement, among us) was already in its wane, required not the prejudices and fond partialities of age to suggest; even if I had been old enough, or cynical enough, for an infatuated partiality to the days that are past, merely because they were the days of fresher impression and more happy susceptibility: and a much less elevated idea of oratorical perfection, than the contemplation of the models of antiquity and the recorded effects of ancient eloquence, is calculated to inspire, might be sufficient to evince—that, notwithstanding the inducements held out in this country for the cultivation of oratory, we had yet not trodden in those true paths of emulation, in which the efficient excellence of that accomplishment is to be attained. Hence, tho a Chatham, indeed, had philippicized, with almost Demosthenean effect; tho a second Pitt had triumphed in the pomps of oratorical diction; tho a Sheridan had blazed awhile, with all the coruscations of wit; tho a Burke had astonished us, by his bold and successful

excursions into all the varied regions of science, of erudition, and of fancy; tho an Erskine had surpassed all contemporary and compatriot competition, in forensic eloquence; and Fox had atoned for a delivery the most offensive, and an action the most extravagant and ungraceful, by all the energies of oratorical mind, and the exhaustless affluence of thought and language;—yet, that happy union of dignity and ardour—of vehemence and harmony—of grace and energy—of comprehension and compression—thought, knowledge, voice, enunciation, and deportment—of inspired soul and cultivated exterior, that constitute the genuine and perfect orator, had never but once (if once) illustrated the Senate and the name of Britain.

"Fully persuaded that the tardiness, the imperfect manifestation, and the premature decline of oratorical phænomena, in a country, whose language, if properly wrought, is an exhaustless mine of oratorical capability, could only be attributed to the want of a proper system of oratorical education, it became an object of my ambition to supply this defect; and tho an institution, expressly established for the education of the orator, might have been too bold a singularity, yet the studies and habits of

my life, having been almost entirely oratorical, it seemed not quite presumptuous to hope,—that, by blending together (what indeed ought never to have been separated) the profession of the rhetorician with that of the teacher of elocution, and by making my institution, at the same time, a seminary for the study of history, and the graces of literary composition, something might be done towards the accomplishment of this great national desideratum; without relinquishing, or in any way detracting from, the principal and ostensible object—the removal of those troublesome defects of utterance, that deprive so many of our species of the noblest privilege of their nature. Nay, for the furtherance of that very object, this part of my project, and the studies connected with it, appeared to be, if not absolutely indispensable, yet of the highest importance; since, by means of these, the stammerer, the faulterer, or the throttler, while under the necessary regulations for the cure of his impediment, would enjoy all the opportunities, and be stimulated by all the incitements, for the cultivation of the most liberal and important branches of efficient education; and the hope might fairly and rationally be entertained,—that, even from among the pu-

pils of this description, might start forth some new Demosthenes, to enlighten and to energize the rising generation.

" It was with these views, that, even in the infancy of my establishment, as soon as I had collected a few pupils around me, I constituted, as an essential part of my academical œconomy, a weekly society, which, if classical names had not been so much degraded by ridiculous misapplication, I would call the Lycæum of Oratory; but which, perhaps, may be efficiently described by the title of the Historical and Oratorical Society.

" The first proceedings of this society, at the end of the year 1806, were not very promising; for my first pupils (as was to have been expected) were almost exclusively such whose cases were of the most desperate description: whose impediments had baffled all the customary modes of treatment; and, what was worse, had occasioned their minds to remain in uncultivated ignorance, and their tempers (a consequence not unfrequent) to be vitiated by the unsocializing influence of feelings and of habits, which their defects had imposed upon them, or maltreatment had provoked. With three or four lads of this description, assisted by two of my own

children—(and their years entitled them to no other denomination,) commenced the first session of a society, which, from its successive growth, and the respectable disquisitions already entered on its journals, I have reason to hope—may contribute, in some degree, towards a more successful cultivation of English oratory.

" It was obvious, at any rate, that the necessity imposed upon these pupils, of delivering (with whatever difficulty,) once in every week, a set speech (written, or extemporary, according to the state of the case) upon a given subject, must produce some effect, both in the way of useful attainment, and the capacity of utterance. My partial success in these cases (for the generality of them did not remain long enough for a perfect cure) brought others to my institution, whose maladies were not so formidable, and who had means and patience to persevere, to the complete accomplishment of their object. At the same time, pupils of another description, who had no actual impediments, but were emulous of improvement, in conversational eloquence, in oratory, and composition, joined the society.

" A more particular organization now became necessary; the precaution of a few simple laws, for the exclusion of visitors, and the direction of

its members; and a regular journal to record its proceedings. The following are, at present, the principal regulations of the society:—"That its meetings be regularly held, in the library of the institution, every Monday evening, at half-past seven, from the beginning of October to the latter end of May;—That no persons be admitted to the discussions, but such as are regularly registered as members of the society;—That every domestic pupil of the institution, and every gentleman entered as a private pupil for a course of twenty-four lessons, be considered a member of the society for the time being, on complying with the established regulations, and be at liberty to become a perpetual member of the same, on payment of a small annual subscription;—That all pupils entering for a quarter of a year, in any of the classes of instruction, be considered as members, for the entire season, on the same conditions; and that those who have been pupils of the institution (domestic or private) for an entire year, have the privilege of members, so long as the society shall continue to exist;—That gentlemen of respectability, not otherwise pupils of the institution, may be admitted as annual members, on payment of a stipulated subscription;—That a few gentlemen of literary and scientific reputation,

or of eminence in the liberal professions (and such only) may, upon proper application, be admitted as honorary members;—That every member of the society open, in his turn, with a written dissertation, the question previously proposed for discussion; and every member be prepared to deliver his sentiments, in his turn, if called upon, during the further discussion of such question; and that it be expected, with the exception of the opening dissertation, that the members shall deliver their sentiments extemporary; but that such members, as have strong impediments of speech, shall be indulged, during the early stages of their treatment, previously to write their speeches, and have them prepared and rehearsed, according to the plan of exercises prescribed in the institution;—That every member shall, at his own expense, cause his written dissertations to be fairly transcribed into the journals of the society; and that minutes of the speeches of the other members be regularly taken by the secretary, and preserved in the same record;—That no decision or vote be taken on any question debated in this society; the objects being historical inquiry and oratorical improvement, not the strife of prejudice, or the victory of dogmatism.

" Besides these regulations, it soon became apparent—that some settled plan was desirable, with respect to the objects of discussion. At first I had satisfied myself with the mere exclusion of subjects of religious controversy and party politics; but now, I began to think it necessary—that the society should have, for its object, the systematic pursuit of some important branch of practical attainment. The most essential objects of study, in the formation of the mental character of the orator, are, 1. for the substance and matter of his discourses, History, (including the progress of opinion, jurisprudence, political œconomy, and constitutional law;) 2. for induction and sentiment, Moral Philosophy (including the study and regulation of the passions, those parts of Logic that are not merely technical, and so much of Metaphysics as relates to the perceptions and definable operations of the human mind, and does not pretend to subtilties and abstractions beyond the reach of ordinary comprehension;)—and thirdly, Poetry, for the depth of pathos, the excitement of the imaginative or inventive faculty, and the improvement of the energies of impressive diction.

" These, then, were to be the principal objects re-

commended to the attention of my oratorical pupils. But the two latter were, obviously, to be regarded as applicable only to the illustration and enforcement of that fundamental and indispensable knowledge comprised in the former. To have made the technicalities of rhetoric, the dilemmas of casuistry, the distinctions of criticism, or the effusions of fancy, the *subjects* of our declamations, would have been to have neglected the foundations, while we were employed upon the embellishments, of the edifice. To be an orator to any effective or beneficent purpose, it is necessary to be an historian. To be a British orator, above all things, the speaker should have prepared his mind by a profound attention to British history. In conformity with this mode of reasoning, I adopted for the society, at the beginning of the year 1808, a plan of regular disquisition, from which it has never since departed (except in a single instance, which afforded the meeting an opportunity of being edified by the antiquarian researches of an honorary member, eminent for his attainments in that department of literature:)—a plan which I conceived would be equally useful to the professor of the law, the incipient senator, the general student, and the

independent gentleman. This was no other than to take, for the subjects of discussion, in regular series, all the prominent facts and epochs of English history : the succession of events, the progress of society, arts and legislation ; the rise and decline of customs, orders and institutions ; and the characters of the respective actors in the great drama of national progression. The five following questions, which were first in this series, will serve to exemplify the plan and object of our inquiries. 1. " How far back into the historical antiquities of " the respective tribes or nations, who have contri- " buted to the population of this country, can we " advantageously look, for the origin of those parti- " cular institutions which are regarded as the " peculiar advantages of the English constitution ? " and what are the particular institutions specifi- " cally referable to the respective people ? "—2. " How far are we in possession of any authentic " evidence relative to the particular institutions of " Alfred ? what parts of those institutions are to " be regarded as merely collated from former codes " and traditions ?—what parts as having originated " in himself and his immediate counsellors ?—and " how far did those institutions survive the succes-

" sive shocks of the Danish and Norman conquests?" —3. " In what nations, or among what different " tribes, that have contributed to the population of " modern Europe, will any vestiges of the trial by " jury be found? What is the evidence of its hav- " ing been one of the institutions of Alfred (origi- " nal or adopted)? or how far it may be considered " as introduced or modified by the Normans?"— 4. " How far are we to consider the feudal institu- " tions as innovations introduced by the Norman " conquest? How far were they practically incon- " sistent with the previous state of political organi- " zation among the Saxons?—and what were their " operations on the morals and happiness of the " community?"—5. " Which ought to be consi- " dered as the greatest character, Egbert, (who " founded the English monarchy,) Canute the " Great, or William the Conqueror?"

" In this manner have we proceeded for two successive sessions, investigating every event and circumstance of importance, from the earliest records of our history to the accession of Henry the Seventh; and, making some incursions into the reigns of the Tudors, as far as to the days of the Reformation, we concluded the discussions of the last

season with a comparison of the merits and demerits of the houses of Tudor and Plantagenet; and the advantages and disadvantages resulting to the country from the government of the respective princes of either dynasty.

" At the discussion of these questions, I have regularly presided, to point out the sources of information, to interrogate the speakers as to the authorities for disputed facts, to rectify their mistakes, assist them in appreciating the value of historical evidence, and religiously to enforce the observance, even in the ardour of debate, of the undeviating language of decorum and urbanity: and, as care has been taken that the library of my institution should never be unfurnished with any books that it could be necessary to refer to, for the illustration of the subject in debate; and as every immediate pupil, at least, has been obliged to take his share in every discussion, tho *all* may not have been formed into orators (a consummation neither practicable nor desirable) no member of the society could well avoid making some progress in the attainment of historical knowledge, and in the habit of confident and fluent utterance.

" For the minuteness with which we have traced,

step by step, the progress of our early history, I had several motives. To those who may choose to partake for successive years in our discussions, the advantages will be obvious of having thus laid a firm foundation in the historical antiquities of their country, whose history and institutions they are, hereafter, to examine, in the more advanced stages. To those (the period of whose instruction being closed) who have retired to their distant homes, or are closely engaged in their professional vocations, it will be valuable, to have been so far conducted thro the thorny road of early investigation, and to be left to their own industry and further attainment, at an æra of increasing interest; where the allurements and excitements to further inquiry and attainment are perpetually unfolding. But I am free to confess, that a motive, not less powerful in my mind, was the desire of not meddling with the more recent periods, till the nature of my undertaking were popularly understood, beyond the danger of suspicion: for I am well aware, how much prejudice has to do in retarding the progress of the most useful establishments; and how important it is for a public teacher, or the professor of any liberal science, to be armed against misrepresentation, and

to have his views and objects understood for precisely what they are. The jealousy of that precaution is now no longer necessary. The objects of my institution are now, I believe, pretty well understood to be no other than they are professed to be—the improvement of English elocution, and the cultivation of the accomplishments connected with the completion of a liberal education, and the efficient endowments for the eligible departments of active life; and the respective pupils, of all parties, and of all opinions, who have already partaken of the instructions of that institution, and of these discussions, in particular, will bear testimony for me—that my system interferes not with the parties or the theories of those who are intrusted to my care. To spread the facts of history before them, to guide them to the attainment of a thorough knowledge of the institutions of their country; to store my shelves, impartially, for their edification, with every respectable authority, *pro* and *con*, for every period or event of disputed record; to form their taste for the more elegant departments of literature, and to inspire, at once, a thirst for knowledge and for eloquence, and an emulation of utility and distinction in their generation, (whatever

may be their class, their party, or their professional destination)—these are the views with which, in the next session of the historical and oratorical society, I shall proceed to direct the attention of my pupils to these two important periods of the English annals; the first of which begins with the accession of the house of Tudor, and the second of which terminates with the abdication of James. Whether the whole of the events of those two interesting epochs will be discussed during a single session of the society, I do not, by any means, predict: but I believe I may venture to announce to those who are interested in the intelligence—that, in the library of my institution, will now be found almost every historian, and every accessible document, that can be useful in the free investigation of any important question that can arise out of the events of those periods. One alteration it is my intention to make in the conduct of this society, which, I hope, may be regarded as an improvement. Hitherto, *every* Monday evening, during the session, has been devoted to the discussions of the pupils; and my own lectures and remarks have been only incidental, and, like those discussions, have been merely private. For the future, it is my

intention to devote the first Monday of every month to a public lecture on the study of history, and its application to the purposes of senatorial, forensic, and popular oratory. To these lectures every member of the society will have free admission; and on these evenings, and these alone, the attendance of visitors, and of ladies, in particular, will be solicited. The discussions of the society must still continue, as heretofore, accessible to the pupils and members only. The first public lecture will be on "The five grand epochs of English history; the "state and objects of jurisprudence, during those "epochs, and the degrees of attention due to each "of them, respectively, by the student of oratory."

"Such, Sir, is the history, and such are the objects, of my infant, but hitherto growing, society, for the cultivation of historical knowledge and oratorical accomplishment. I have already trespassed too long upon your attention, to detain you by a tedious apology; I shall, therefore, only just observe—that, perhaps, few things could contribute more to the advancement of science, and to extend the operation of useful establishments, than a free and full announcement of the plans, views and means, of such establishments, authenticated by the

signature of their respective projectors, (who would thus become responsible to the public, in person and reputation, for the fulfilment of their professions,) thro the medium of a Miscellany so widely circulated as that by which so many obligations, in the furtherance of his professional pursuits, have been conferred on, &c.

"*Bedford-Place,* 10*th August,* 1809."

The Lectures are regularly taken in short-hand; so that, altho spontaneously delivered, the record of the sentiments and maxims they contain will be preserved—probably as a basis for future publication.

THE END.

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